



our quality-focused veterinary care for your farm

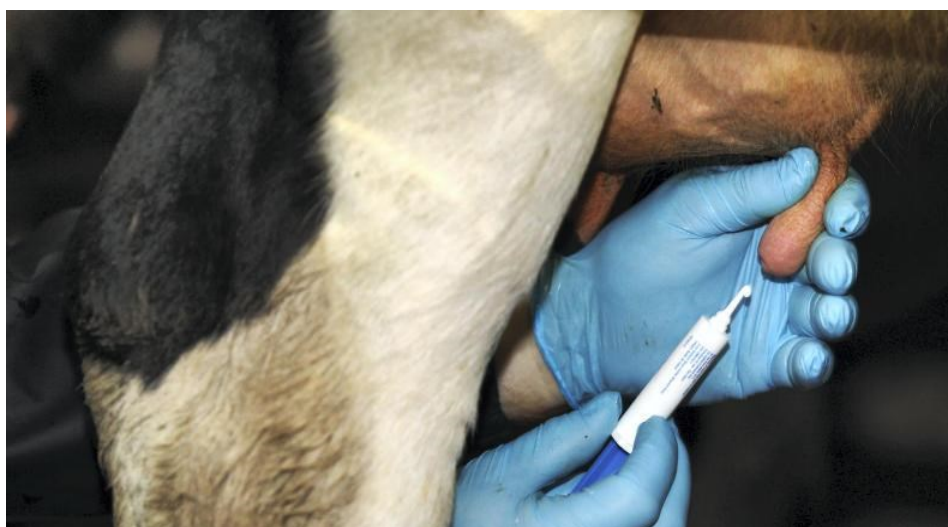
THE milk carton

Dargaville Vets

Teatsealing in Heifers:

MAY 2020

Administration of internal teat sealants to your heifers is an effective way of preventing mastitis in their first milking season.



Heifers can pick up mastitis-causing bacteria from the environment over the dry period or during calving, for example when lying down or calving in a wet muddy paddock.

The internal teat sealant is an inert, non-antibiotic substance that plugs the teat canal until it is milked out, and therefore prevents the entry of bacteria into the teat canal during the riskiest period.

Usually internal teat sealants are administered four weeks prior to calving.

Teat sealing also allows an opportunity for training your heifers to enter the milking shed prior to their first milking.

Teat sealants should be administered with careful attention to hygiene so as to avoid bacteria (such as from faeces and hands) from being pushed into the teat canal.

We can make this process easier and administer teat seal for you.

DRY PERIOD MASTITIS

Watch Out For It!

Using Antibiotic dry cow therapies and Teat-sealants properly at drying off will significantly reduce the chances of mastitis during the dry period.

However, even despite best efforts to avoid it, there will still be the odd case here and there. The first two weeks and the last two weeks of the dry period are the highest risk times as the udder tissue is undergoing big changes during these times. This means extra vigilance is required, especially in the first two weeks after drying off.

For the first week after drying off DO NOT bring the cows back to the shed as this may lead them to start producing milk again. However, watch their udders as you move them to their new paddock and look for any signs of swollen or reddened quarters.

continues on page 2



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A cow with a bit of a hind leg lameness or reluctance to move may also be a give-away. In this case, separate the affected cow off and just take her back to the shed for further inspection. After 1-2 weeks you could choose to run them through the shed on a weekly basis to inspect their udders.

If you find a case of mastitis then it needs to be treated exactly the same as mastitis during the lactation. The cow needs to be stripped, and a lactational antibiotic needs to be administered. It is best to use a product with an extended therapy label claim and treat for 3-6 treatments.

NEVER treat a cow like this with further dry cow therapy or a teat sealant after her mastitis has cleared up.

This is against the label instructions and has a high chance of leading to an inhibitory substance grade at calving.

ROTAVEC: Calves with scours...

Not something you want to experience, anyone who has been through it will tell you. To avoid scours you need to start planning now, by using Rotavec Corona you can boost your calves immunity against three causes of scours.



Scours outbreaks happen when calves ingest too many scour causing bugs for their immune system to fight off. The most important thing to keep calves healthy is to give them a strong immune system. As calves aren't born with an immunity to disease they must have Gold Colostrum* within the first 12 hours of life to allow their immune system to turn on properly.

Rotavec is a vaccine given to cows 3-12 weeks before they calve and only one shot is needed. The vaccine boosts the immunity available in colostrum specifically against Rotavirus, E.coli and Corona virus, making it 'Super Gold' Colostrum. When this 'Super Gold' Colostrum is fed to calves within 12 hours of birth and they continue to get four litres of clean colostrum/transition milk each day for two weeks of life, the risk of calves getting scours is minimised and if they do get scours the severity is significantly reduced.

Plan now for your next crop of calves, how you will manage colostrum and calf shed hygiene, equipment cleaning protocols and calf housing? Vaccinate your herd with Rotavec and feed 'Super Gold' colostrum with-in 12 hours of birth. Prepare for success.

see article "Go For Gold" for more info on Gold Colostrum

Calf Scours: And how to use electrolytes

Treatment	
Mild : weak but standing and suckling	AM: 1-2L milk MIDDAY: 1-2L electrolytes PM: 1-2L milk OVERNIGHT: ad-lib 4-6L electrolytes
Moderate: cannot stand, sunken eyes, skin tents when pinched but returns to normal	AM: 1-2L electrolytes MIDDAY: 1-2L milk PM: 1-2L electrolytes OVERNIGHT: ad-lib 4-6L electrolytes
Severe: cannot stand or suckle, very sunken eyes, skin stays tented	AM: 1-2L electrolytes MIDDAY: 1-2L electrolytes PM: 1-2L electrolytes OVERNIGHT: ad-lib 4-6L Electrolytes. Day 2: replace midday feed with milk.

Calf scours are caused by either infectious bacteria, viruses and parasites (e.g. rotavirus, E.coli, cryptosporidium, salmonella) or nutritional causes (e.g. inconsistent source, volume or frequency of milk feeding).

Death associated with scours is caused by dehydration and electrolyte imbalance, so treatment is rehydration with electrolytes and milk. To rehydrate a calf, determine how severe the dehydration is, and alternate between warmed electrolyte and milk feeds, allowing two hours between feeds.

Leptospirosis

Vaccination Reminder

Now is the time to make sure that all of your cattle are up to date with their leptospirosis vaccinations: this includes the herd, R2 heifers about to enter the herd and last years calves.

Leptospirosis vaccination of cattle is one of the key tools in helping prevent leptospirosis in humans and vaccinating on time is vital. By vaccinating now, you booster the immune response before the period when leptospirosis transmission is most likely to occur – wet conditions with standing water.

Last years calves need their booster vaccination now. 18mths between calf vaccinations and a booster as an R2 heifer is too long.



5 good reasons To Use Eprinex

**Eprinex treated cows
produce more milk, more than
any other drench!**

**Heifers treated with Eprinex at
calving get back in calf 12
days earlier than those left
untreated in NZ trial work**

**Eprinex increases the length of
time cows spend grazing, this
effect lasts for 12 whole weeks!**

**Eprinex has the highest return
on investment at \$42.20 per
cow treated. Even Cydectin
doesn't come close at \$22.05
return per cow treated.**

**Awesome price deal, \$100 off
every 5L from May-August 2020!**

GO FOR GOLD

Gold colostrum is only the first milking after a calf is born, the milk after this is transition milk, until the cow goes into the vat. It takes 5-6 weeks for Gold Colostrum to be produced in the udder pre - calving. It has very high levels of the antibodies a calf needs to develop its immune system, however, the quality of this colostrum declines every hour post calving and also varies between cows.

The best way to improve your Gold Colostrum quality is to milk cows as soon after calving as possible, but, the only real way to know you have Gold Colostrum is to test it.



This can easily be done with a tool called a refractometer, these only cost \$109. And provide a cow-side test to ensure your Colostrum is top quality. Every cow can be tested before adding its milk to the Gold Colostrum stores or being fed to newborn calves. An average calf can develop a good immune system with just four litres of Gold Colostrum in the first 12 hours, if colostrum quality is low the calf might need more than six litres. Gold Colostrum is worth the effort. The amount and quality a calf receives in the first 12 hours of life not only affects its survival to weaning but also growth rates post weaning and milk production in first lactation.



Trace Element Testing

Why we do trace element testing now.



Now is a good time for trace element testing to ensure your cows have adequate stores of copper and selenium prior to the metabolic stress of spring calving. If you have supplemented over the last season in particular, this allows you to determine whether your supplementation programme has worked and whether further supplementation is required this season.

Copper, selenium and vitamin B12 are important for normal functioning of many enzyme pathways and deficiency has secondary effects on reproductive function, growth, and ability to adapt to changes over calving.

Trace element testing is valuable to avoid costs associated with unnecessary supplementation and potential toxicity if copper and selenium levels are in excess. Testing involves taking at least 6 liver biopsies and blood samples from a random sample of the herd. Finally, the dry-off period also allows for drenching against liver fluke and roundworms, so the time of trace element testing is likewise a good time to test for liver fluke.

Eprinex is the BEST

At Dargaville Vets we stock products proven to do the job.

There is a perception out there that all drenches are much the same, but we want to challenge that. Trial work in NZ has proven that Eprinex has the highest milk production return of any drench available in NZ. The latest study was done by Massey and they actually tried to prove that Eprinex does not work. Luckily they were wrong!

Take advantage of our amazing price on Eprinex this winter; \$100 off every 5L you buy for your herd!



Liver fluke; A costly problem lurking in the swamp

Liver fluke could be costing milk production in your dairy herd, and young stock growth rates and reproduction performance.

Immature liver fluke are ingested off pasture in boggy areas and start to chew their way across the liver surface until they reach the bile ducts where they live as adults. This destructive pathway means that immature fluke are costing you more production than their adult counterparts; choose a treatment that will kill as many stages as possible.

For adult dairy cattle and heifers about to enter the herd, Genesis Ultra Pour® on and FlukeCare® are good options for treating all liver fluke stages. If you need a short withholding product and oral drenching adult cattle isn't an option, Icon F Injectable® is a good alternative.

If you are using it when you have a high liver fluke burden, consider giving a second dose approximately one month later to kill any newly matured liver fluke.

Where calves are known to have liver fluke infection we recommend using Switch Fluke 10. It's great for cattle of this age as it contains two drench actives so has good efficacy against worms in the gut while also being very effective against both immature and adult liver fluke.

