

Mastitis: how much is too much?

Getting the basics right

**The cost of poorly grown dairy
replacement heifers**

Water: love it and loathe it



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Situations vacant & classifieds

Heifer grazing available on a Vetlife managed grazing property

One of our large scale dairy clients in North Otago has grazing available for groups of up to 800 R1 heifers.

This grazing is available now and will continue to be so for the period until the heifers return to the milking platform in June 2013.

It is likely that the following year's crop of R1 heifers can also be accommodated at this grazing property.

In addition they will be fully monitored under the Vetlife Heifer Management Programme.

In the first instance please contact the Vetlife Oamaru clinic via either:

Ivan Holloway 027 530 4645 or
Nicola Joyce 027 433 3240

If you would like to advertise please send expressions of interest to the editor at: vetlifeneeds@gmail.com

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Gut worms in adult cows: when and why to worm drench adult cows

Background

Over the last two to three decades, the use of worm drenches for adult dairy cows was a no go because of milk and meat withhold periods and the impracticality of delivering an oral product to a large number of adult dairy cows.

However, with the advent of the "mectin range", pour on delivery became an option and with nil milk withhold the real use of worm drenches in adult cattle began.

Today

We now understand that adult dairy cows can become parasitised and that worm burdens can affect productivity.

Where worm burdens are affecting productivity, drenching can have beneficial results. Not surprisingly, where the limiting factor is not parasitism, cows do not respond to drenching. The point is not all cows and not all herds should be blindly drenched. However, the claim that cows never need drenching and never have a productive response is not backed up by the scientific evidence either.

The conundrum

It is not enough to know that there are or have been worms present. For drenching to be useful we need to know that there will be a cost effective production and health response. So ok, how do we tell who needs a drench?

History

A thorough consideration of the herd history including farm goals, present body condition score (BCS), grazing patterns, feed available, level of production, the pattern of prior drench use etc. all are really important considerations. These points help to decide whether you will get a cost effective response from drenching.

Antibody test

We have also been using the Bulk Milk Antibody Test. This measures the level of exposure of the herd to worms.

This test can help decide whether there will be a useful response to worming the herd. Alone it can be difficult to interpret and to know how much significance should be attached to it but together with the history this test can provide a very good basis on whether to undertake treatment.

When to drench

There are two times of the year that have emerged as key times to assist cow health and production by worm drenching (if required):

- Dry off: with the whole dry period to gain BCS.
- Post calving: with the whole production season ahead.

A survey of cull cows this autumn: would you like to be involved?

To gain additional information about our dairy herds, Vetlife is planning to survey 15-20 dairy herds this autumn with your help and cooperation.

What we want to do is to examine the fourth stomach of cull cows at the slaughter premises. We will do whole stomach counts for adult worms and then examine the stomach lining for immature parasites that could be encysted there.

This will be at no cost to yourself and we will report back to you both your own data and eventually the overall survey results.

We will need about five cows minimum from each herd.

We will also ask some questions around the actual history of those cows and maybe carry out a Bulk Milk Tank Test if you have not already done one.

If you would be so good as to help us please email or phone Dr Reon McMurtrie our Vetlife Methven vet who is running this survey on: Reon.mcmurtrie@vetlife.co.nz
Mobile: 027 511 6004

We wish all our dairy clients a successful autumn finish to what has been an outstanding year.

Best regards
Adrian Campbell on behalf of all the Vetlife colleagues.



Practice Principal
Adrian Campbell (Vet)

Mastitis: how much is too much?

At this time of year, the high levels of clinical mastitis in the spring may be just an unpleasant memory but just how much clinical mastitis is there in herds in the Vetlife area in the spring?

This year, we have been able to estimate levels of clinical mastitis on farms from the amount of mastitis product that those farms purchase. This gives a rough and ready guide as to how many clinical cases

there are on farms: under and over use of the number of tubes per case may affect the results but the number of cows and the number of farms included (60,000 cows over 100 farms) means that the broad sweep of the data is accurate enough.

Looking at farms in the South Canterbury region, Fig 1 shows the median percentage of clinical mastitis per month measured in this way.

The newly launched Smart SAMM milk quality programme has a target by 2016 of less than 5% of mature cows with clinical mastitis per season. The results below suggest that most local herds are not there yet. However, how well are the best local herds doing? Fig 2 shows the average level of clinical mastitis achieved by the top 25% of herds in South Canterbury.

These top 25% of herds represents data from around 30 farms with an average herd size of 560 cows in milk. They have 16% less clinical mastitis over this period which, using DairyNZ figures for the cost of a clinical case, represents \$13,000 of extra income per farm. These are real farms with really low levels of mastitis achieving really significant increases in farm income.

At the upcoming milk quality consult with your Vetlife vet, take the chance to talk through the amount of clinical mastitis in your herd and what options you have to get back some of that \$13,000.

Andrew Bates
Vetlife Temuka

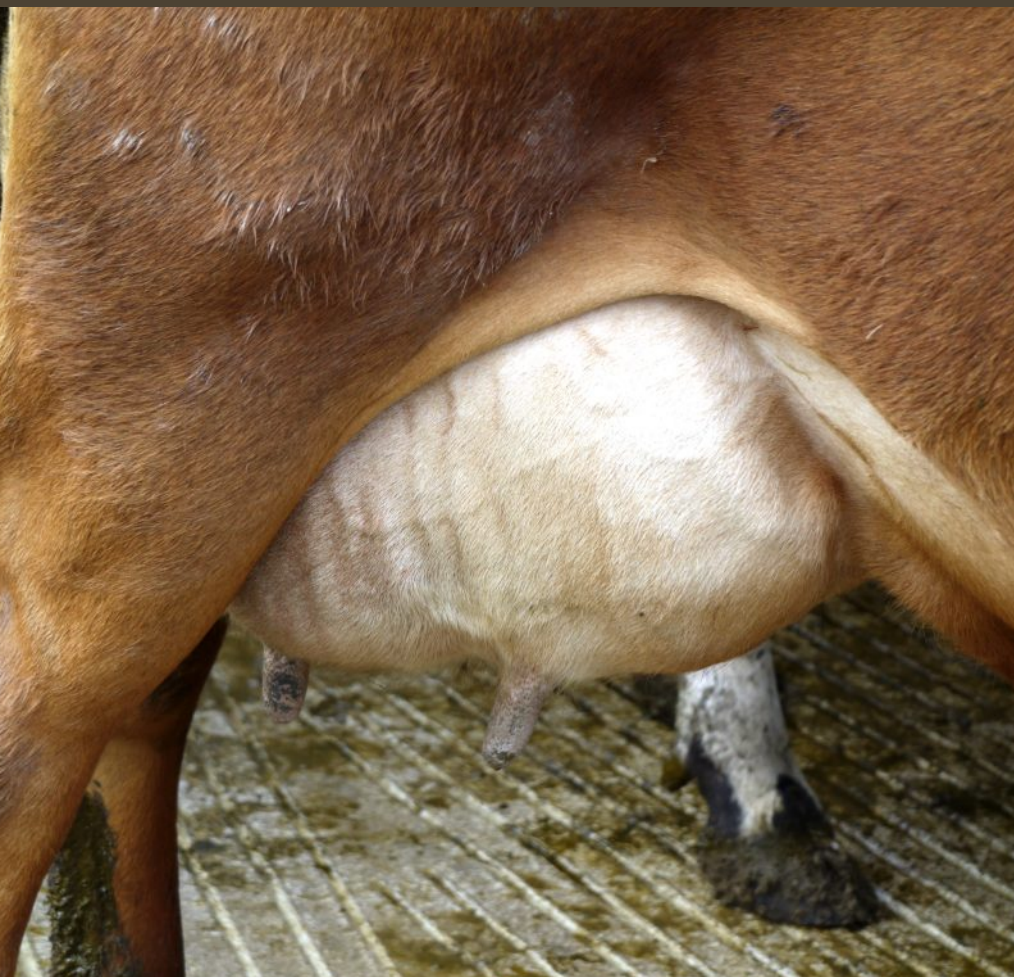


Fig 1

Median Temuka herds mastitis incidence (% of herd/mnth)

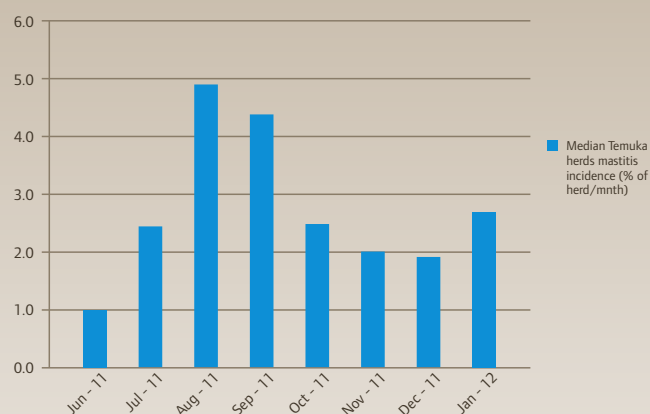
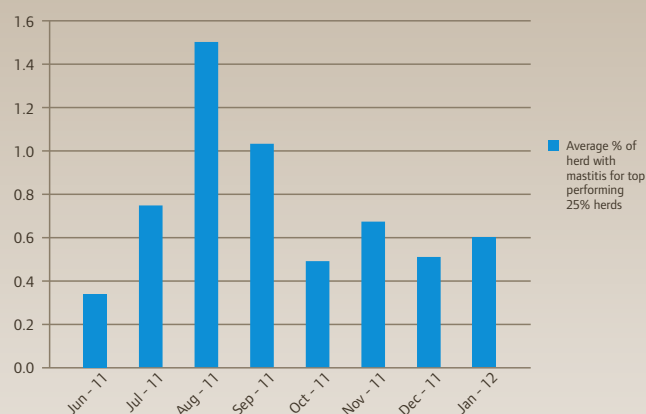


Fig 2

Average % of herd with mastitis for top performing 25% herds



Vetlife profile: Craig Trotter



Craig grew up in eastern North Otago on a sheep and beef farm. After high school, he attended Lincoln University to study an undergraduate degree in Agriculture Science which led to a Doctorate in ruminant nutrition and lecturing

in animal nutrition and production courses. His thesis looked at liver abscessation and rumen function in bull beef production systems.

Craig now works for Vetlife as a dairy nutritional advisor and researcher. His primary role at Vetlife involves leading nutritional work with clients including quality and quantity assessment of pasture and forage crops and pursuing research opportunities for the practice. He also works with Andrew Bates assisting with the Dairy Excellence initiative, Vetlife's programme for improving and developing the dairy side of the business. From time to time, Craig can also be found number crunching field data in the office!

Activities outside the working week usually involve fishing, hunting and talking about farming and wider agricultural industry issues!

He is looking forward to the opportunity of meeting with many of you and assisting with animal nutritional advice and feed management across the practice.

Bubble, bubble, toil and trouble...

Can milk protein levels be too high? The level of milk protein can reflect the energy intake of dairy cows with low milk protein percentage in the spring being linked to cows in negative energy status. As well as being a sign of good feeding for the cow, higher milk protein levels are frequently linked to improved payout levels in both New Zealand and the United Kingdom. However, concern has recently been raised in the European Parliament that excessive milk protein levels in milk may have negative impacts for consumers. Senator Canube Leveit raised the issue after concerned constituents contacted his office about high levels of milk froth when milk was added to their morning cereal.

"The bowls disappear in a sea of bubbles as the milk is added. In one case a constituent's Jack Russell drowned when milk was added to his morning dog food. This is clearly a matter of grave concern for all consumers," the senator is quoted as saying.

Scientists believe that the reason for the high levels of frothing may be linked to raised levels of milk protein which stabilise the bubbles through a lattice of polymerised proteoglycan cross linkages. A spokesman from the Chinese Government said that China takes the problem extremely seriously given the recent scare over Melamine. Scientists from the Chinese Republic Authorisation Programme (CRAP) suggest that the kinetic energy released from the milk as it is poured allows the air trapped in the milk to inflate the bubbles to a much larger size than normal. China has withdrawn its ambassador from Taiwan and ordered a full mobilisation of its elite Anti-foaming Rapid Response Squads (ARRS) all along its southern seaboard to resist any possible American involvement.

The linkage between feeding and milk protein levels is however controversial. A principal senior special scientist with a well known dairy organisation reports a recent trial (published in DairyHindsight) where one group of cows was fed a normal pasture ration with a protein level

of 22% and another group was fed a depleted protein pasture for a period of two weeks before mating. The depleted protein cows all gave significantly less milk than the normal cows (2.3kgMS/day vs 0.8kgMS/day) and the 6 week in-calf rate for the depleted group was 43% compared to 76% for the normal cows. However, the report notes that "The level of frothing in the milk was the same for both groups; clearly there is no impact of nutrition on this problem."

Nearer home, a well known national veterinary group has set up a dedicated team of self-certified specialists to help farmers through this issue. A spokesman is reported as saying that the group has a combined experience of 60 years in the phenomena of self-inflation and exists solely to help farmers in as financially efficient manner as possible. The major milk companies have welcomed this initiative. Connor Artist, a member of the Initiative for Good Legislation Affirming Farmers (FIGLEAF) said, "Our trading partners are increasingly demanding a standardised, robust approach to food quality integrated vertically through the food chain and involving all stakeholders in horizontal partnerships to increase mutual understanding and group satisfaction. We aim to guarantee that, whatever its quality, advice offered on farm will be standardised, measurable and consistent. Overseas markets will be reassured to know that the advice offered to a 120 cow herd in the far north will be the same as that to a 3000 cow unit in Southland." It is the intention to provide training and certification for advisers wishing to enter the field of bubblopathy (dealing with excessive bubble formation in natural products). Courses will be organised, starting on 1st April, and examinations held to ensure that only the right sort of people are able to be part of this problem. According to the group, the veterinary universities are just not producing graduates with the right set of skills for today's market, "Our extensive experience in the commercial sector with clinical and trial work gives us a



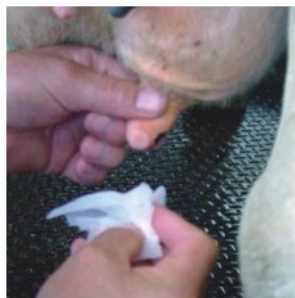
unique approach to running courses and assessment of our peers."

Many of those going through these courses have secondary veterinary degrees, further professional qualifications and years of experience in milk quality issues but they find they just do not know enough about bubbles. "It's often a case of where they come from that makes the difference," a fully qualified member of a Froth Advisory Response Team (FART) said.

Vetlife will work hard to keep you up-to-date as this story unfolds.

Andrew Bates
Vetlife Temuka

Getting the basics right



As we develop an ever better understanding of how cows work, how pasture works and how to make the two produce milk it is easy to get distracted by some of the top end detail and overlook the basics. This is true at drying off too. So back to some basics for this drying off:

Plan ahead

We all know drying off is coming up so let's plan for it:

- Keep an eye on the long range weather forecast as your intended dry off date approaches, if it looks like things are turning sour consider drying off before this hits. Do not leave it until the second week of continuous rain then dry off just because you can not wait any longer.
- Roster enough staff for the day. The more hands available the better, it will make the job go faster and reduce the temptation for staff present to cut corners. Also warn staff that there may be some last minute changes as may be required above.
- Decide on an appropriate dry off paddock. Once the therapy is in, the cows should walk quietly away to a clean dry paddock and should not be brought back past (or worse into) the shed for about a week. Try to have this paddock identified and looked after for this purpose before you need it.
- Dry cow therapy (DCT) is meant to be in the cow within eight hours maximum of her last milking. Do not milk the cows and try to get a few other jobs done before you come back to dry off, dry off day is dry off day.
- Plan a system for the day and discuss it with staff so everyone knows what they are doing. Who will check cows are painted? Who will teatspray? Will one person clean teats while another puts tubes in or will both jobs be done by one person?

Practice good technique

Hygiene is crucial, introducing bacteria on the end of the tube is self defeating.

- Clean the teat end with alcohol (50:50 pure isopropyl alcohol: water mix or 70:30 pure meths: water mix) until your swab/wipe comes away clean.

• Either

- Clean each teat then insert the tube before moving on to another, however it is best to let alcohol evaporate to give it time to eliminate bacteria so if using this technique you should continue to clean each teat end for 10-15 seconds or pause for evaporation to occur before inserting the tube.

• Or

- Clean the teats nearest the front of the cow first then clean the teats nearest the rear of the cow. Insert the tubes into the teats nearest the rear of the cow first and then tube the teats nearest the front of the cow. This reduces contamination from your forearms contacting teats before the antibiotic is infused.
- Wear gloves and clean hands and arms in a disinfectant solution between cows if they become grossly contaminated.
- Do not soak tubes directly in warm water to soften them (if they need softening put them all in a bucket in a bigger bucket of warm water).
- You should not be relying on the antibiotic in the tube to cover poor hygiene. Certain bacteria such as *Pseudomonas* which the antibiotics cannot deal with can be introduced in this way. This was recognised as the cause of losses in at least one case in the South Island last year.

Partial insertion causes less damage to the internal structures of the teat than full insertion.

- Damage to these structures compromises the teat's natural ability to resist invasion by infectious organisms.
- Full depth insertion also increases the risk of introducing bacteria: both more bacteria and deeper.

- More bacteria: every millimetre deeper you insert the tube provides another millimetre worth of plastic access into the teat, each millimetre of plastic could carry millions of bacteria.

- The deeper the tip goes inside the teat the closer bacteria on that tip get carried to the udder itself, the more easily they will develop into an infection.

Do not massage teatseal up into the udder: it needs to stay in the teat to do its job. If you are using dry cow and teatseal in quarters, then it is important to massage the dry cow up into the udder before you insert the teatseal into the teat. Again, do not massage the teatseal up into the quarter. Leave it in the teat!

Teatspray

- Teatspray reduces the bacterial population on the teat and so sets up an immediate protection for the teat end.
- Teatspray should be administered within a minute or two of the DCT being infused into the teat.

Take your time

A rushed job is often inferior. You would not buy a shed platform you knew had been welded in a rush.

- Depending on available staff and the facilities 100-150 cows per hour is a reasonable target.
- You may need to consider drying off over a number of days to do the job properly.

Be aware of Inhibitory substance risks

Milk companies report that they have two times of year when inhibitory substance grades are vastly more likely than others, they are early calving (cows milked into the vat while still on DCT withhold) and at dry off (cows dried off yesterday milked by mistake today). Adopt a plan that has lots of redundancy so if one aspect fails another will catch it for you.

- Devise a plan that reduces the risk of dried off cows being milked, especially if drying off over a number of days. Consider dumping all milk on dry off day. If you want to sell dry off day milk then milking the whole herd before starting dry off is safer than milking then drying off one race/platform at a time.
- Move dried off cows well away from the rest of herd to make it difficult for them to jump back in the herd.
- Mark all cows that have been given DCT especially any dried off ahead of the herd (paint is cheap) stories circulate about cows jumping many fences to get back to herd mates only to be caught in the milking yard, they cannot all be myth.

Duncan Crosbie
Vetlife Temuka

Time waits for no man...or woman...or cow!

Over the next couple of months at Vetlife Temuka, we are having a round of decadal birthday celebrations; I will be turning 30, another colleague, 40 and another 50. In passing one day, my two senior colleagues mentioned how great things were in their respective 30s. Many of the good folk reading this article, will now be reminiscing of their apparently finer years whilst for others, the magic 30, 40, 50 and older is still a glorious dream. It made me think, as we all know, old grandpa time does not stand still; as Tracy Lawrence, a well-known country music singer famously wrote, time marches on! Growing older and wiser in our years is a great thing but how does it apply to the old girls in the herd, those carefree frolicking spring new borns and all those cows in between.

Table 1 shows DairyNZ figures of an “optimal” herd structure scenario for a dairy herd. It shows that one third of all cows in a herd should be in their first or second lactation, also shown is the

mean national breeding worth (BW) and production worth (PW) stats for heifers born in that year so for example, today’s four year old cows (approximately 13% of the herd) had a heifer BW score of 77 and a PW of 83. If BW values are to be believed, it shows that within a period of eight years, currently two year old cows would be around \$70/year/unit of feed more profitable than their great (times six!) grandparents when using figures from 1995 as a baseline.

Of course with age comes reliability and wisdom but this data fairly clinically shows the importance of the introduction of new genetics into the herd through new offspring. No wonder that in the last 20 years, rolling five year individual cow milk solid production has risen from around 278 to 322 kg/year. I remember when I first started in the dairy industry around 10 years ago; achieving 400 kg MS per year for individual cows was a gold standard, now it is a figure often achieved as a

herd average, especially through the Canterbury district. Certainly, there are other factors at play here with the improvements in performance such as better pasture production, utilisation and supplementation but there is no doubt that genetic selection has played a pivotal role in the increase in performance and will continue to do so.

What all this boils down to is to make sure you look after those young cows, especially those most recent spring born and first calvers. Elsewhere in this newsletter is an example of potential costs of those animals not achieving critical liveweights when they enter the herd for their first calving. On many properties, attrition of first calving heifers can be high due to animals being culled for not getting back into calf again. There is an old adage, 80% feeding, 20% breeding, though this may not be strictly correct, it certainly implies that without feeding, breeding can be limited. Getting them up to the critical liveweights is important to make sure they will look after you in the future and perform to their capacity for many years to come.

Craig Trotter
Vetlife Temuka

Table 1 “Optimal” target age structure for a typical dairy herd

Age (years)	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10+
% of dairy herd	18	16	13	12	11	9	8	7	6
Average heifer BW	107	91	77	70	59	57	46	36	
Average heifer PW	109	95	83	77	65	66	58	47	



The cost of poorly grown dairy replacement heifers

The benefits of achieving target liveweights lie in both reproduction and production. We know that undergrown heifers reach puberty later and the outcome is both a higher empty rate and a slower calving pattern. The losses will therefore be in culled empty heifers and lost milk through shorter lactations and lower in-calf rates as rising three year olds.

What sort of losses actually occur on the milking platform?

The literature cites the production losses from undergrown heifers as 0.25kg milk solids (MS) for each 1kg liveweight under target.

For example, a crossbred heifer that should weigh 400kg at first calving but is 10% underweight weighing 360kg i.e. 40kg light, will produce 10kg or \$70 less than her herd mate at today's payout.

If she is 20% short of target and weighing 320kg this doubles the loss to \$140, but this is only part of the story as the intake required for

growth that occurs during lactation could have been diverted to milk production compared to her well grown herd mate.

Say she grows from 320kg to 400kg in her first lactation i.e. regains her 80kg of body weight, (but she is still small as a rising three year old) and assume that it takes an average of 36MJ of energy per kg of liveweight gain, then a total of 2880MJ have gone into growth in this lactation.

If this had been available for milk production, then based on the requirement of 65MJME for 1kg solids, 44kg MS valued at over \$300 has been forgone by heifer growth.

If you add this to the under performance of \$70 above then it is clear that a heifer 20% undergrown is costing you around \$350.

Putting this in perspective for a grass based system, a properly grown cow should produce 80% of her liveweight as MS; say 350kg grossing \$2450 and the light one \$2100 which

is 14% less. If farm working expenses are \$3.65 per kg MS this is a reduction of 30% profit.

Grow your heifers well. Be generous with milk prior to weaning and with meal before and after weaning.

Weigh calves before you stop milk feeds and ensure they have reached target for their breed. Provide good quality fibre and quality pasture.

Talk to Vetlife about the Heifer Monitoring Programme.

Andrew McLaughlin
Vetlife Temuka



Water: love it and loathe it

Coming to work over the last few weeks, I have noticed that the clinic budgies no longer greet me with their morning chirpiness! Instead they sit quiet as a feather, waiting for the daylight to get that little bit stronger and only then, is it all systems go! As the year progresses, we are slowly moving into shorter day length and in no time I am sure, the appearance of good old Jack Frost just around the corner, whether or not he turns up before dry off is up for debate!

Pasture covers on many farms are in great condition, with many farms currently recording covers of around 2100-2300 kg DM/ha and higher. With all this feed around, production levels are up considerably, some by 10% or more at year to date compared to previous seasons and average cow condition is good. I know many clients are currently being bombarded with information from all corners to ensure those thin

cows in the herd (BCS at or less than 4) are at the top of your priority list for preferential feeding or perhaps once per day milking etc.

Some farms are having difficulty in maintaining herd body condition scores with several farmers reporting cows are “milking off their backs” even in the face of high apparent feed intakes. In many instances, this may be down to reductions in feed quality due to very high pasture covers or the fact that dry matter (DM) percentage of many pastures may be sufficiently low due to the ongoing reoccurring rain that we have had of late. Allocation of feed DM to the herd based on normal feeding principles may not be taking into account feed of a lower DM percentage. Of course, it would be expected that this is not usually an issue but with current weather of late, the LUDF for example has taken to mowing in front of the

herd to maintain cow DM intakes. The table below shows some examples of changes in pasture DM percentage and its potential effect on cow feed intakes; even small declines in pasture DM percentage can result in higher required wet matter intakes by around 10-20kg.

Of course this does not take into account potential reductions in the quality of that feed, especially where covers are high and the first and second leaves of the sward may start to break down. This of course would further complicate things resulting in higher total feed requirements necessary to maintain expected production levels.

This season has been one out of the box with many clients having considerably lower power bills than usual and perhaps reduced farm working expenses in general. The use of grass and cereal silages now to extend round length and improve dry matter feed consumption is evident. The temptation to milk as late as possible into the season is real though it may very well cost when it comes to the performance of the herd for next season. Perhaps dry off those poor performing cows with high SCC now to make more feed available for the milkers and, make sure you keep a close watch on those lighter cows in the mob.

Craig Trotter
Vetlife Temuka

MJME required to milk 1.5 kg/day MS and put on 2 kg LWG/week	Feed quality (MJME/kg DM)	Feed dry matter required (kg/day)	DM % of pasture	Feed wet matter required (kg/day)
215	12	17.9	12	149.3
215	12	17.9	14	128.0
215	12	17.9	16	112.0
215	12	17.9	18	99.5
215	12	17.9	20	89.6



Vetlife Merial Ancare Holiday Promotion Winners!

For all clients that purchased Merial Ancare products from 1st October to 15th December 2011 from Vetlife, one \$500.00 Travel Voucher was won at each Vetlife clinic plus clients went into the draw to win an overall prize of \$3000.00 worth of Travel Vouchers.

Congratulations to all our successful clients!



Overall prize winners

of the \$3000.00 worth of Travel Vouchers were James Wright & Cate Hogan from Tenahaun Farm, Ashburton. Pictured Cate Hogan & Andrew Wright with Charlotte Edmonstone (Vetlife) presenting the voucher.



Vetlife Ashburton prize winner of \$500.00 worth of Travel Vouchers was Phil Sloper from Derrylin Ltd, presenting the voucher is Vetlife Rep Manager Colin Cromie.



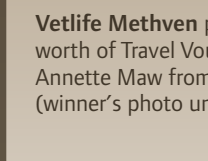
Vetlife Banks Peninsula prize winner of \$500.00 worth of Travel Vouchers was Joe & Sarah Power from Te Oka Farms, presenting the voucher is Veterinarian Richard Bishop.



Vetlife Dunsandel prize winner of \$500.00 worth of Travel Vouchers was Neville Greenwood, presenting the voucher is Veterinarian Matt Hart.



Vetlife Fairlie prize winner of \$500.00 worth of Travel Vouchers was Chris McCarthy, presenting the voucher is Veterinarian Georgina McKerchar.



Vetlife Methven prize winner of \$500.00 worth of Travel Vouchers was Lesley & Annette Maw from Greenside Farm Ltd (winner's photo unavailable).



Vetlife Oamaru prize winner of \$500.00 worth of Travel vouchers was Jono Buchly from Dairy Farms Partnership in Patearoa, Central Otago, presenting the voucher is Field Rep Nicola Joyce.



Vetlife Omarama prize winner of \$500.00 worth of Travel Vouchers was Andrew Sutherland from Benmore Station.



Vetlife Oxford prize winner of \$500.00 worth of Travel Vouchers was Jonny Austin from Aroha Downs, presenting the voucher is Field Rep Norma Barton.



Vetlife Pleasant Point prize winner of \$500.00 worth of Travel Vouchers was Andrew Steven, presenting the voucher is Veterinarian Hayden Barker.



Vetlife Temuka prize winner of the \$500.00 worth of Travel Vouchers was Kevin and Lyn McDonald from Ponderosa Farm, presenting the voucher is Field Rep Alice Cartwright.



Vetlife Waikouaiti prize winner of the \$500.00 worth of Travel Vouchers was Sharon Brogan, presenting the voucher is Bridget Martin (Vetlife).



Teatseal in heifers: one farmer's experience

Matt and Trudy Holmes have farmed on the north side of the Rakaia River for the last 14 years. They milk 900 cows on their farm; this season is the first that daughter and son-in-law Jamie and Nathan Fridd are lower order sharemilkers with them.

They have historically had very high levels of heifer mastitis occurring around calving. Matt puts this down to his heifers having pumped up udders and leaking milk around calving. This was despite carrying out various recommended practices to reduce heifer mastitis, including trying to control nutrition and teatspraying pre-calving. Anyone who knows the Holmes's stock know that they are fed well, with heifers being in great condition when they arrive on farm pre-calving.

For reasons such as milk, time and money costs, as well as loss of quarters, Matt wanted to reduce the amount of mastitis cases in his heifers. On another farm in which the Holmes have an interest, the heifers had been teatsealed the previous season with very good results. This helped them make the decision to use teatseal in their own heifers last winter. Matt was more than happy with the results, with an 80% reduction in mastitis cases for their heifers last spring. The initial trials for teatsealing heifers produced a 65 to 75% reduction in mastitis cases. From a Vetlife point of view, most clients do achieve better results than the trial with some farms having spectacular success.

The job of teatsealing was easily done at a grazing block using a specially designed trailer

sourced through Vetlife, with no accidents occurring to heifers or people. Matt thought this went well and felt the secret to this was to have plenty of people helping. This was achieved by use of farm staff for loading the heifers and a Vetlife team inserting the teatseal. Hygiene and technique is very important when inserting the teatseal.

The Holmes have seen the value in teatsealing heifers, with greatly reduced spring mastitis and

Matt is keen to keep using it, as long as prices stay reasonable!

Other articles on the use of teatseal in heifers are able to be found on vetlife.co.nz. Look at the newsletters for May and April 2011 and May 2010 under the News section on the website.

Matt Hart
Vetlife Dunsandel



Hot off the press from the LUDF!

Vetlife are pleased to reprint the following with permission from LUDF!

A quick glance of weekly farm data	21st Feb	28th Feb	6th Mar	13th Mar
Pasture growth rate (kg DM/d)	100	82	72	77
Pre-grazing pasture mass (kg DM/ha)	3194	3238	3522	3221
Average pasture mass	2578	2539	2416	2413
Post-grazing pasture mass	1750	1750	1750	1750
Pasture quality (MJME/kg DM)	12.1	12.3	12.3	11.5
Pasture offered (kg DM/cow/d)	12	16.2	18	15
Pasture silage offered (kg DM/cow/d)	5	0	0	1
Milk solids production (kg MS/cow/d)	1.67	1.65	1.61	1.60
Milk solids production (kg MS/ha/d)	6.48	6.38	6.25	6.24
Herd mean body condition score	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1
Monitor group LWT (kg) - 157 early MA cows	486	487	491	492
Bulk milk somatic cell count ('000)	131	151	150	163

For more detailed information go to www.siddc.org.nz



The next focus day is to be held 10th May. Include it in your diary now!

RESULTS

THE PROOF IS IN THE PREPARATION



GET THE RESULTS YOU WANT THIS SEASON BY PREPARING WITH MERIAL ANCARE PRODUCTS AND WE'LL HELP YOU STAY ON TOP OF SOME OF THE OTHER THINGS AROUND THE FARM WITH A NEW SET OF POWERBUILT TOOLS OR 2.5 TON JACK*

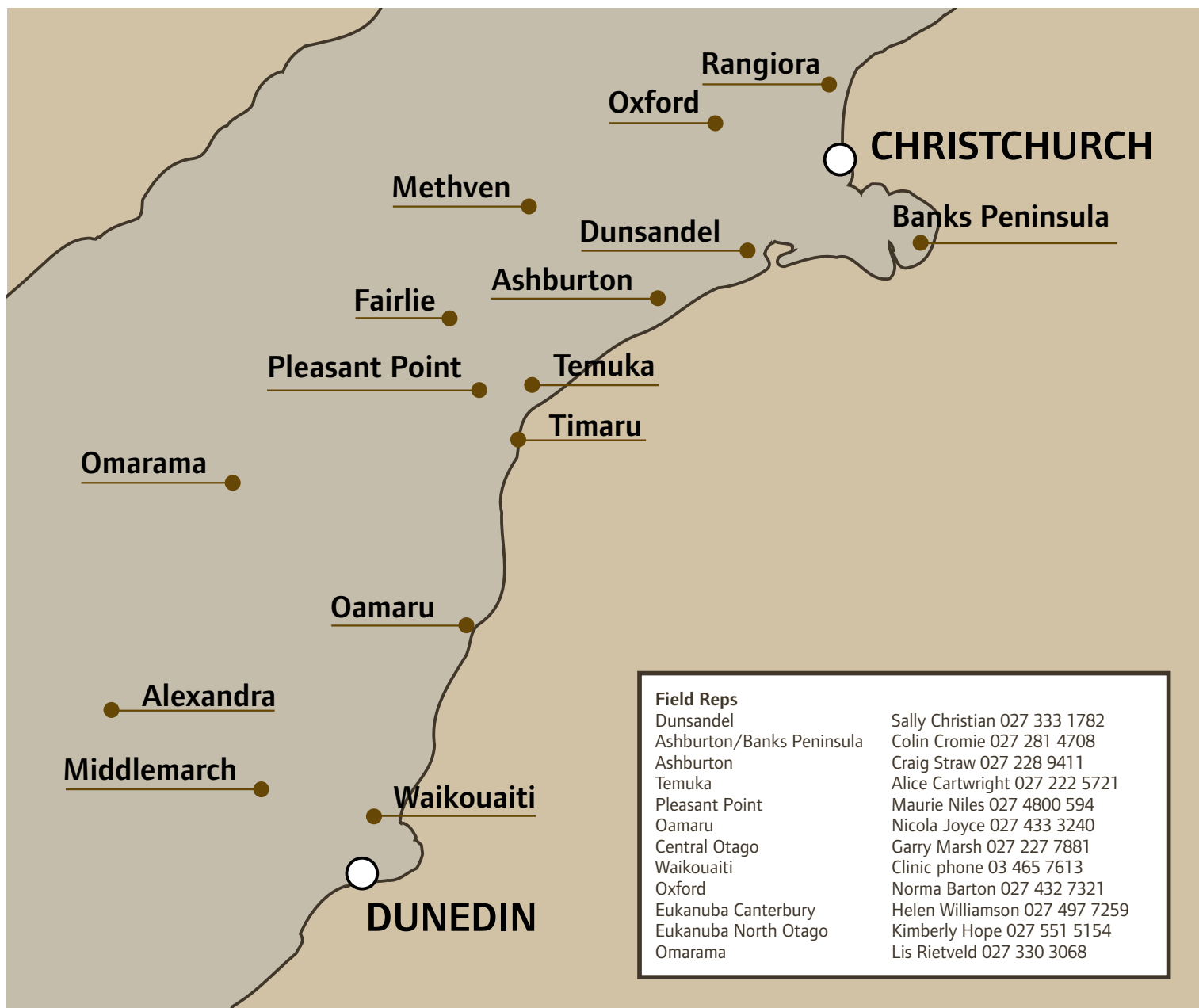
Spanner set or jack qualifying packs: GENESIS® Pour-On 2.5L & 5L, ECLIPSE® Pour-On 2.5L & 5L, EPRINEC® 5L, GENESIS® Ultra Pour-On 5L, 2 x IVOMEC® Plus 500mL, 2 x GENESIS® Injection (with/without B12 & Se) 500mL, EXODUS® 5L, MATRIX® C 10L or 2 x ECLIPSE® E Injection 500mL.
Tool kit qualifying packs: GENESIS® Pour-On 10L, EPRINEC® 20L, ECLIPSE® Pour-On 10L, MATRIX® C 20L, 3 x ECLIPSE® E Hardpack or 2 x IVOMEC® Plus Hardpack



PROUDLY AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL VET

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*WHILE STOCKS LAST



Field Reps

Dunsandel
Ashburton/Banks Peninsula
Ashburton
Temuka
Pleasant Point
Oamaru
Central Otago
Waikouaiti
Oxford
Eukanuba Canterbury
Eukanuba North Otago
Omarama

Sally Christian 027 333 1782
Colin Cromie 027 281 4708
Craig Straw 027 228 9411
Alice Cartwright 027 222 5721
Maurie Niles 027 4800 594
Nicola Joyce 027 433 3240
Garry Marsh 027 227 7881
Clinic phone 03 465 7613
Norma Barton 027 432 7321
Helen Williamson 027 497 7259
Kimberly Hope 027 551 5154
Lis Rietveld 027 330 3068

Comments and feedback

We value your feedback. Please feel free to comment or lodge a complaint in confidence on our services, advice and products.

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Vetlife Banks Peninsula
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