

ruralnewsletter

December 2014 | Issue 70

Vetlife
Animal Health Partners



BVD and beefies

Selecting sheep for resistance to parasites

Mad cows, itchy sheep and skinny deer

Bloat in cattle: prevention is better than cure

Vetlife Mamyzin Milk Quality Competition

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Front cover photo by Hayley Shaw - Vetlife Oamaru.

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Leptospirosis: a really important reminder about an old subject

New Zealand is one of the early adopting countries from around the world that manages leptospirosis (lepto) in dairy cows and in dairy farmers by vaccinating the calves and the cows (and not the humans).

To help make sure that things are done on time and correctly with all the health issues considered, we run a programme called Leptosure. Leptosure is based on an annual consult, where all changes to the vaccine, the recommended vaccination regimes including timing and identified risks are discussed and sorted out. This programme of vet input combined with farmer self-management works extremely well for Vetlife and our dairy clients.

We would urge our clients not to see the annual consult as any form of imposition, but an opportunity to really nail the control of this devastating animal and human disease.

I just make a few comments now:

1. Vetlife strongly recommends that calves are vaccinated and boosted early. If need be, annual crops of calves should be divided into appropriate age groups, i.e. do not do all calves at once. Interestingly, a recent survey across New Zealand showed that some adult milking cows were shedding lepto bacteria in their urine despite being vaccinated as calves and annually. This was a big disappointment as lepto bacteria in the urine create a high risk of human infection. When the survey results were further analysed it seemed that this problem was a result of late vaccination as a calf.
2. There seems to be a small increase in human lepto infections in New Zealand despite our dairy industry largely being under control. It is thought that sheep, deer and perhaps unvaccinated beef cattle all could potentially be infecting farmers or more importantly slaughter premise workers.

3. The value of vaccinating both beef cattle and deer is well documented, but we would also draw sheep farmers' attention to vaccinating sheep. Vetlife has surveyed sheep flocks in our region and we certainly have lepto circulating in our sheep flocks. But at this stage we are only recommending vaccination of sheep flocks that have diagnosed lepto. That aside, sheep farmers and other humans associated with unvaccinated sheep need to be very careful around personal hygiene.

Lepto is one of those very old stories within the New Zealand agri scene, but we cannot become complacent around the strict timing and strictly annual vaccination.

While the New Zealand-wide and largely successful vaccination of New Zealand dairy cows has been going on for decades, it has not and was never designed to eliminate the bacteria.

Lepto bacteria are still very much alive and well in our New Zealand livestock.

We cannot relax our vigil on this animal and human disease.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Adrian Campbell - Vetlife veterinarian.



Practice Principal
Adrian Campbell (Vet)

Christmas and 2015 New Year best wishes

The colleagues at Vetlife sincerely thank our clients for their business over the 2014 year. We appreciate the strong and genuine working relationship we have. On that basis, we wish you an excellent Christmas period and all the best for 2015. Agriculture continues to be the backbone of New Zealand so we are proud to be part of this very successful and high achieving sector.



BVD and beefies

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) is a virus that infects cattle. BVD can cause abortions, deformed calves, low scanning rates, low weaning rates, diarrhoea, and HUGE effects on growth and production.

BVD is commonly discussed as a production problem for dairy farms. Monitoring BVD in beef herds that graze on extensive properties is often seen as not as important. BUT IT IS! BVD is important not just in beef cows but in any trading stock, finishing cattle or dairy grazers.

BVD is spread from animal to animal by contact and maintained within a herd by PIs – animals that are persistently infected with BVD virus and spread it to other cattle for their entire life. BVD can spread within a herd, from the neighbour's cattle over the fence and brought in cattle, replacement heifers or bulls. Infection of pregnant cows can generate many infected calves which then go on to further infect the herd as calves at foot with their dams.

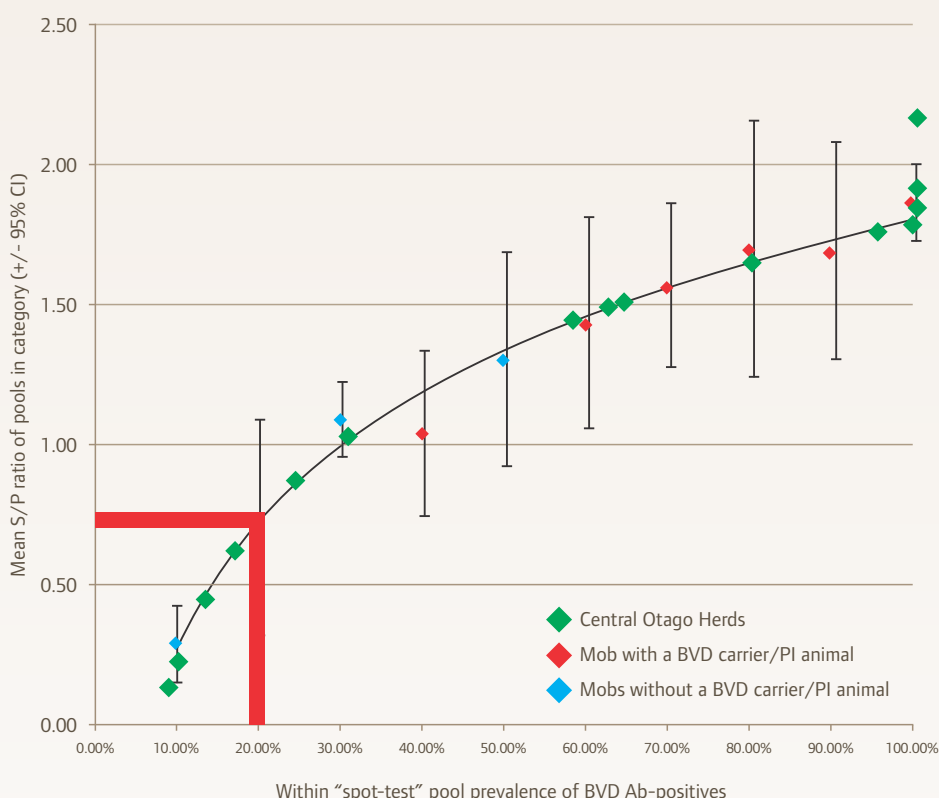
How rampant is BVD in beef herds?

- 68% of farms tested in Central Otago have an active BVD infection which will be causing negative effects on beef cattle production.
- 16% of farms tested, tested negative for BVD – this just means they have not had BVD yet and their cows are very susceptible to BVD.
- 65% of beef farms nationally have active BVD infection but only 15% of dairy herds!



Dairy calves are taken from their dams at birth while beef calves are weaned at six months plus of age which compounds a BVD infection within a herd and is partly why the infection rate is so much higher in beef herds compared to dairy

herds. A dairy herd can test for BVD with one milk sample; a beef herd requires 15 blood samples from any animal on the farm that is older than 10 months of age. This test then lets us know if you have BVD and if you have it, how bad it is.



This graph depicts the relationship between the pooled test result and percent of individual positive animals making up the pool. The greater the number of positive animals making up the pool, the higher the pooled antibody result. Herds with pooled S/P ratio of less than 0.75 are most unlikely to be infected: most beef herds have a ratio much greater than 0.75 i.e. most beef herds are actively infected with BVD.

BVD can have major financial impacts on a beef herd – \$3,000 to \$9,000 per 100 breeding cows and farms that have eradicated BVD are now noticing increased weight gains and production within their herd compared to when BVD was infecting their cattle.

BVD is not a notifiable disease unlike TB which has to be declared on an Animal Status Declaration form before stock leave a farm. Do you know the BVD status of cattle on your own farm or that of the cattle you are buying in? Those steers at the weaner sales? Replacement heifer calves? The cattle you are grazing for the neighbour who has run out of feed?

Be BVD wise and know the status of the cattle on your farm and that of any cattle you are buying in – you will benefit in the long run!

Amy Watts
Vetlife Alexandra

Selecting sheep for resistance to parasites

A test developed by AgResearch now allows farmers and breeders to select animals which have better resistance to the establishment of incoming parasite larvae.

CARLA® is a molecule found on all internal parasite larvae (L3s) infecting livestock. Antibodies to CARLA® produced by the sheep in saliva prevent the establishment of gut

parasites: the response depends on genetics, age and the amount of larval challenge.

Trials by AgResearch indicate that when larval challenge is high enough to limit animal growth, high CARLA® antibody animals are still able to remain productive as well as having lower faecal egg counts (FECs) but it is not associated with a higher dag score. Animals showing a CARLA®

antibody response of two units/ml or more will have 20 to 30% lower FEC than animals with a low antibody response.

There is large variation in the time at which lambs develop a protective CARLA® response:

- About 10% of animals produce CARLA® antibodies by February.
- In April, 30 to 40% of lambs will have high levels of antibodies.
- In June, 50 to 60% of lambs will have high levels of antibodies.
- Typically there will be 10 to 20% of animals where CARLA® levels remain low.

The individual antibody response is strongly influenced by an animal's genetics. The heritability of the CARLA® antibody response is high (30%).

Animals with a good CARLA® response are expected to be more resilient to larval challenge because they neutralise larvae on entry and therefore reduce the negative downstream effects of established worms. Drenching does not affect the CARLA® response and the CARLA® response limits the establishment of worms between drenches. The growth difference between high and low CARLA® antibody lambs will be greatest with high larval challenge and a long interval between drenches.

Selection of breeding stock with higher levels of CARLA® antibodies will result in progeny with a better response to larval challenge. Because of the good heritability (30%), substantial year-on-year gain is expected. CARLA® results can be used to identify individual rams and ewes with a better immune response to parasites.

Determining CARLA® levels in adult animals gives no indication of when these animals developed the ability to handle larval challenge. The best option is to purchase rams from a breeder providing CARLA® breeding values (BVs) and regularly CARLA® testing lambs as part of their breeding programme. Results show that progeny from rams with a high CARLA® larval protection BV will tend to maintain their performance better during a parasite challenge and have a lower FEC.

CARLA® is not included in any of the SIL indexes, so for rams with a similar dual purpose index it is better to pick the ram with higher CARLA® BV. The addition of CARLA® to a FEC based programme will add accuracy and improve the rate of progress for reduction of FEC.

Testing is simple and saliva sampling itself takes about 30 seconds per animal. A dental swab is rubbed in the cheek pouch for approximately seven seconds and then placed in a container.

For further information contact your local Vetlife clinic.

Beatrix Loomes
Vetlife Twizel



Is the sheep drench you are using on your farm working effectively?

Drenching with products that are not working effectively costs you money! It is not just the price of the drench but also from lower growth rates of lambs and replacement stock, higher maintenance feed costs as it takes longer to get animals up to weight, reduced fleece weights, decreased immune response to other diseases e.g. pneumonia, and increased worm contamination of pasture.

How worm eggs can contaminate pasture

- One adult worm lays 500 to 1000 eggs per day.
- One hogget defecates 600 grams of faeces per day.
- If the hogget has an egg count of 150 eggs per gram (pretty low egg count) it would defecate 90,000 eggs per hogget per day!
- If 15% of these eggs survive that is 13,500 eggs contaminating the pasture.

BUT what if the egg count was 800 eggs per gram? Then 480,000 eggs would be produced from each hogget every day! A mob of 250 hoggets would produce 120,000,000 eggs per day and on a nice warm, irrigated spring day when 15% of the eggs survive that is 18 million eggs onto the pasture!

This is why an effective drench, a drench killing 95% or more of the worms present, is so important.

Faecal egg count reduction tests (FECRT) give an indication of the efficacy - how good a drench is at killing worms on individual properties. Resistance levels are different on every farm and, if you are trading lambs, grazing stock or buying in sheep, then a quarantine drench is needed to prevent resistant worms coming on to your farm.

National data shows that resistance is out there and results from FECRTs completed last season in Central Otago reinforce that - burying your head in the sand or relying on the FECRT done back in the 1990s or just leaving it to your neighbours does not cut the mustard.

By the time clinical signs of scouring and poor growth rates are visible the effects of drench resistance are well spread and have been affecting your production for numerous years.

Drench resistance is common within New Zealand sheep and beef farms - see the table in this article. Instead of just buying the drench you have always brought, this year what about considering making an educated purchase based on a FECRT results from your farm and know that you are spending your money wisely and cost-effectively. Managing parasites is not just about drenching it also involves: grazing management, genetic selection and breed susceptibility, FEC monitoring, minimising adult drenching, knockout and quarantine drenches. FECRT are one part of the big picture of managing worms in a farming system.

Amy Watts
Vetlife Alexandra

Drench resistance on New Zealand farms

| Drench | Oxfendazole | Levamisole | Abamectin | Arrest | Switch | Matrix | Startect |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|---------------|------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | White | Clear | ML | White & Clear | ML & Clear | ML White & Clear | Derquantel & ML |
| Resistance nationally | 71% | 56% | 25% | 31% | 2% | 4% | 0% |
| Resistance in Central Otago | 75% | 50% | 25% | 50% | 25% | 0% | 0% |
| Proportion of drench sold | <1% | <1% | 2% | 32% | 32% | 31% | 2% |

**McKenna, P., Anthelmintic resistance in sheep nematodes: New data. November 2013.*

**Central Otago data from FECRT completed in 2014 and drench sold 2013/2014 lamb season at all Vetlife clinics.*



Bloat in cattle: prevention is better than cure

As bloat season is approaching fast, it is worthwhile starting to get ready for preventing this common cause of sudden death in cattle in New Zealand.

Bloat is simply the build-up of gas in the rumen. This gas is a normal product of the process of fermentation and it is usually released by eructation (burping). The most common type of bloat is frothy bloat where gas builds up in a foam or froth above the rumen contents and normal burping is impeded.

Bloat can occur on any forage that is low in fibre and high in protein but is most common on lush, immature and fast growing legume forages, such as clover, alfalfa and lucerne. Frost, dew or rain often increase the risk of bloat due to the reduction in saliva production which increases the viscosity or stickiness of the rumen liquid. Bloat outbreaks are likely to happen during periods of rapid plant growth in the spring or following a late summer or early autumn rain after a period of drought.

Most bloat occurs when cattle are first put onto pastures in the spring, when hungry animals are moved to new pastures after overgrazing the previous day's paddock and during periods of rapid pasture growth. Jersey breed, young and animals that are fresh to the feed seem to be more prone to bloat.

Reducing the occurrence of bloat

- During spring start grazing on pastures that are grass or grass-legume (at least 50% grass) mixtures. This will allow the animal time to adjust to the pasture.
- Start animals on legume pastures gradually. One option is leaving cattle on the paddock one hour the first day and gradually increasing grazing time to four hours by the third day and day-long grazing by day five. This gives the rumen time to adjust to the new feed.
- Feed hay prior to turning them out to pasture or when grazing risky paddocks.
- Check animals for bloat every one to two hours when beginning grazing or when grazing high risk paddocks. Be alert when it is wet from dew or rain.
- Avoid overgrazing and make sure that animals are not excessively hungry when going onto fresh pastures. Give supplements if necessary.
- Water trough treatment with bloat oil is usually effective at controlling bloat. However, it does carry some risks as it relies on the regular intake of water by cattle. Water consumption is reduced during wet conditions just when pasture is more likely to

cause bloat. Also, bloat oil stains the water so cattle will preferentially drink from creeks and springs if available.

- Consider using ionophores such as Rumensin® and Rumenox®. These products provide bloat protection with the added bonus that the animal's feed conversion efficiency increases, enhancing milk production, improving daily weight gain, and conserving more body condition for the same feed intake. There are a number of forms available including feed mixes, water additives and capsules so they are very versatile and offer control options to stock in various scenarios. If you are interested in using these products in your herd please talk to your local Vetlife vet.

Dario Mendoza
Vetlife Alexandra



Going feral

Having recently joined the Rare Breeds Conservation Society of New Zealand, I have spent some of my time learning of their work around the identification and management programmes of the rare breeds that we have in New Zealand. Whilst many of these breeds have been introduced and are rare from a global perspective, some of these breeds are endemic to New Zealand and have lived in their particular habitats devoid of human intervention for up to 200 years. Many of these species were brought in to New Zealand for the purposes of farming of course but with the large area of land for them to roam around in, they quickly lost contact with their would-be farmers; others of course were released onto neighbouring islands and left to roam wild and act as a source of food for future shipwreck survivors. In some areas, pioneers of the day attempted to farm locations such as in the sub-Antarctic group of islands (Auckland, Campbell and Enderby); but within a decade or two, these areas were abandoned by the settlers and the animals (sheep, cattle and rabbits) left to their own devices.

New Zealand can account for around 12 different groups of feral sheep colonies, these are listed, as at 1990, as the following: Ngaruroro, Mohaka, Arapawa Island, Wairau, Clarence, Waimakariri, Waianakarua, Waipori Gorge, Hokonui, Chatham Island, Pitt Island, Stewart Island and Campbell Island, with reference to feral sheep having been cleared from Raglan and Takitimu, and exterminated from Mangere Island, Southeast Island and Kapiti Island.

Many of these breeds are now in a state of decline in their naturalised environment due to the perceived destruction of the flora and fauna and conservation polices conducted by the Department of Conservation. In some instances, they are also considered to be a pest as they can interact with farmed domesticated sheep breeds resulting in cross breeding situations as well as a randy ram stealing farmed ewes into the bush and themselves becoming wild never to be seen again! I myself have hunted the Waianakarua sheep in the Wainak area several times and can attest for their wiliness in the bush; you can hear them bleat to one another but it is a different story again to actually see one in the bush! The rams do have good heads on them if of course you can identify and get a bead on one for long enough!

Many of these breeds of sheep are now farmed and bred to maintain the breeds for the future. There have been several research programmes performed on some of these breeds to understand better their adaptation to their environment such as their wool self-shedding capability and footrot disease resistance.

Apawara and Pitt Island sheep are probably the most numerous in New Zealand and can be

purchased on Trade Me with comparable ease either as a cross bred or as pure strains; I have not tried them as a roast myself but as they were originally predominantly merino-based, well we all know you cannot beat a merino for meat quality!

The breeds of livestock outside of our predominant domesticated breeds are fairly numerous but some of these breeds (particularly the New Zealand endemic breeds) consist of only a handful of animals and only exist today due to the perseverance of a small

number of breeders and rare breeds conservationists. The adaptation ability of some of these domesticated breeds to revert back to the wild is quite fascinating, just ask Shrek of course! There are folks running small flocks of each of these breeds of livestock including cattle, goats and pigs etc. that may have genetic capabilities to perform better than their domesticated counterparts and of course extend the genepool for the species internationally. These of course do deserve exploration to understand how they have adapted to their environment in a relatively low number of generations. For any further information feel free to go the NZRBS website (www.rarebreeds.co.nz) to find out more about any of these breeds of livestock currently being maintained in New Zealand.

Craig Trotter
Centre for Dairy Excellence, Geraldine



A group of Waianakarua/Herbert sheep (photo by Michael Trotter and Beverly McCulloch).



A group of Clarence Reserve sheep (photo by Greg Morton).



A pair of Arapawa rams (photo by Michael Trotter and Beverly McCulloch).



A flock of Pitt Island sheep at the Beattie property, Banks Peninsula.

Mad cows, itchy sheep and skinny deer

Currently the world watches with trepidation as Ebola threatens to spill out of West Africa and developed countries race to both assist in containment and develop better technology to detect and control. In the late 1980s a similar nervousness gripped the world over HIV and in the late 1990s mad cow disease and its human variant CJD caused concern. While mad cow disease (BSE) proved to affect cattle significantly more widely than CJD did humans, its ability to infect humans through the food chain combined with its slow development making detection difficult has maintained it as a significant food safety concern to date.

In order to maintain New Zealand's freedom status from BSE along with Scrapie of sheep and Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) of deer, the Ministry of Primary Industry (MPI) has undertaken a Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) surveillance scheme for many years. These diseases all manifest as recognisable microscopic changes in the brain of affected animals. As with most diseases affected, animals display a set of signs and symptoms that are attributable to the disease but which are often consistent with other disease entities. Through examining a significant number of brains from animals who show signs suggesting they have a TSE and proving the absence of the microscopic proof this scheme seeks to reassure trade partners that despite our best efforts to find these diseases on our shores we cannot and therefore we are presumably free of them.

In order to encourage submissions of these brains MPI offer an incentive scheme to farmers and vets alike for the submission of the head and the time required to remove and prepare the brain for examination.

Farmer Incentives

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Cattle | \$150 ^{+GST} |
| Deer | \$100 ^{+GST} |
| Sheep and goats | \$50 ^{+GST} |

Veterinary Incentives

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Cattle | \$290 ^{+GST} |
| Deer | \$160 ^{+GST} |
| Sheep and goats | \$140 ^{+GST} |

Age

- Cattle aged 30 months up to nine years.
- Deer, sheep and goats two years and older.

Clinical presentation

- Cattle which might be considered as having a metabolic disorder which fails to respond to treatment.
- Downer cattle which have no obvious injury.
- Dairy cattle which have previously behaved reasonably in the milking shed, but which are now at the point of being culled for behavioural reasons.
- Cattle showing any signs which might be considered to be of neurological origin and which do not respond to treatment.
- Cattle showing abnormalities of gait or stance which are not obviously associated with musculo-skeletal pathology.

- Progressive non-responsive nervous disease cases in adult sheep, goats, and deer.
- Progressive non-responsive cases of ill-thrift in deer.
- Acute or peracute pneumonia, or aspiration pneumonia in adult deer.

In each case, where no other cause of the disease can be definitely diagnosed at the time of necropsy.

NB: "Nervous behaviour" in cattle is defined as: persistent ear-twitching, strange gait, aggressiveness, nervousness, cup-kicking, or behavioural change.

www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests-diseases/animals/tse/surveillance-incentives.htm

Because these cases need to be certified the animal will need to be examined whilst alive by the submitting veterinarian. If you have an animal that you believe qualifies for submission to this scheme please contact your local Vetlife vet to discuss and arrange sample collection if appropriate. The scheme is designed to pay the vet's time so you will not be charged for this visit unless mileage is excessive.

Duncan Crosbie
Vetlife Temuka

Where are those rams when needed?

With ram sales already happening, it is time to have a sort out of your existing ram flock to ascertain numbers of new rams required.

Any new acquisitions should be from a Brucellosis-free accredited flock that fits your farm's management systems and goals. Care must be taken if getting cheap rams from saleyards or dairy converting neighbours - if they infect your existing rams then they become very expensive! If in doubt get them blood tested prior to mixing them with your own rams or ewes. Brucellosis still rears its ugly head sporadically, causing thickening of the epididymis and impaired fertility as well as early abortion in ewes. The introduction of infection has a huge economic impact due to ram wastage. Spread is via ram/ram, out of the closet activity and also where an uninfected ram serves a ewe that has previously been mated that season by a Brucellosis infected ram. Infection in the ewe does not carry over from one year to the next. Thus introduction is from imported rams, lending out rams or from stock straying on to your property.

As with all stock arriving on farm, new rams should receive a quarantine triple drench such as Matrix Hi-min or alternatively, new family Startect as you will not know the breeder's resistance status. Also on arrival, I would recommend vaccinating with Covexin-10 or Ultravac 6in1 to cover clostridial diseases - why pay good money for a valuable asset that could then die suddenly before you have even used him? These new boys need to be kept separate until your existing rams have been vet checked.

Preparation of these older boys for their short time of action needs to start now as semen production occurs over a six to eight week period so any adverse event will affect sperm quality for this length of time. The internal temperature of the testes is maintained at four degrees less than body temperature so anything that causes a rise in this will adversely impact on semen quality. This may result from a generalised fever such as pneumonia, foot abscesses or a reaction to oil based vaccines such as Footvax. Woolly scrotums and scrotal mange will have the same effect as will rams in

full fleece with no shade which is especially pertinent to show rams. Attention should be given to hoof care to prevent problems during mating and all rams should receive selenium supplementation preferably with a clostridial booster and a worm drench.

Vasectomising rams needs to be carried out in the near future to allow plenty of time for wound healing and ejection of any loitering sperm. These guys are particularly useful for hogget mating and since this occurs later than ewe mating they can be used for both usually for a period of 17 days. Contact your local Vetlife clinic to book in ram checks and vasectomies.

Chris McFarlane
Vetlife Dunsandel

Vetlife Mamyzin Milk Quality Competition

This year's winners of the Vetlife Boehringer Ingelheim Milk Quality Competition are Paul Wilde and Carina Swete of KBW farms, near Temuka. There was a twist to the competition this year in that we were looking both at overall bulk tank cell count performance and antibiotic usage on mastitis for this spring (July to mid-November). Although there were a few farms with an overall lower BTSCC for the spring, Paul and Carina had the combination of the lowest BTSCC and lowest dollar per cow spend on mastitis for those farms that entered.

KBW's figures were:

- Average BTSCC August to mid-November 2014: 94,000.
- Dollars spent per cow on mastitis for this period: 0.37.

Congratulations to Paul and Carina who receive a cheque for \$250.00 and a voucher for \$250.00 to be spent at any Vetlife clinic.

The results highlighted the range in performance even amongst the farms that entered (these tend to be the lower cell count farms for obvious reasons). BTSCC ranged from 57,000 to 217,000 and antibiotic spend from \$0.37 per cow to \$11.70 per cow. Low antibiotic spend did NOT mean that cheap antibiotics were chosen over more expensive ones; just that fewer cases occurred for treatment.

Clearly, some of those high BTSCC high use clients will be battling their way through a problem and hopefully will move to low BTSCC

low use. Equally, some of the high BTSCC, low use farms may need to look at what they are doing and whether there is under diagnosis of clinical mastitis on these properties. Finally, the high use low BTSCC farms could potentially use management changes to move to low BTSCC, low use farms.

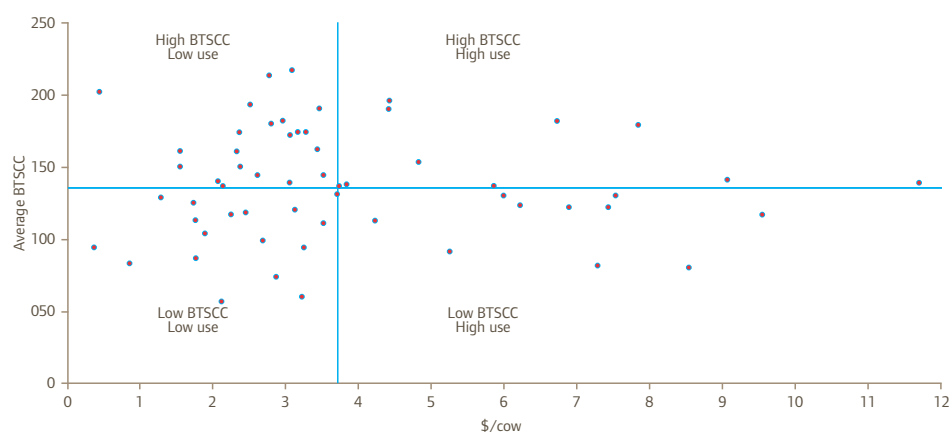
This whole exercise has brought home how different our clients individually are and the role that data has in making good decisions. There are plenty of stories going around at the moment of red pen wielding farm advisers slashing spending and leaving many a farm budget the worse for wear. Controlling costs is vital (and Vetlife works hard to do this too) but a one size fits all approach clearly is not going to be a good fit for all. The reason why the spend is high is as important to know as the fact that it is high. This is the sort of information that Craig Trotter and Katherine Ley at the Dairy Excellence Centre can access via their monthly benchmarking process to help you make better informed decisions and genuinely improve your bottom line.

A big thank you to Katherine for help in collecting and organising the data and to all those clients who entered. If you think you could do better, make sure you enter next year.

Andrew Bates
Vetlife Temuka

Katherine Ley
Centre for Dairy Excellence, Geraldine

Average BTSCC spring 2014 vs antibiotic use on mastitis



"It's a team effort and we concentrate on getting the basics right,"

said Paul Wilde and Carina Swete, pictured here receiving the winning cheque in the Vetlife Boehringer Ingelheim Milk Quality Competition with (pictured from R to L) Simon Constable, Shannen Russell, Dylan Wilde.

Livestock euthanasia: when timing becomes critical

On every farm, it is unavoidable that livestock may get sick or injured to the point they may not recover. There is a social and ethical responsibility for farmers and vets to determine if recovery is possible and if it is not possible, to determine whether slaughter or euthanasia would be the best option.

Farmers and vets need to make sure that the quality of the animal's life as well as the quality of the animal's death is always a priority. And it is there where euthanasia plays a vital part of animal welfare.

The term euthanasia borrowed from Greek literally means "good death" and refers to the practice of intentionally ending a life in order to relieve pain and suffering. For farmers and vets, the act of humane killing of livestock is not only about how to do it, but also when to do it.

Euthanasia does not indicate failure at the hands of a vet, farmer or member of your staff. It is not an easy decision to make, execute or discuss, but it is a necessary fact in both veterinary and farming life. Euthanasia does not imply fiasco either: some animals are going to get injured, and some animals are going to get sick, and not all animals will recover. For those animals that will not recover, the next step for a farmer is to work with their vet to determine if slaughter or euthanasia is the best option. When the decision needs to be made, farmers and vets should not delay what needs to be done and must work together to euthanise at the right time. So that is why good discussion and fluid communication between farmers and vets are so crucial.

Slaughter should be reserved for animals that are not in severe pain, are freely able to stand or walk, capable of being transported and free



of disease or drug residues that might create a public health risk. On farm euthanasia or humane killing is the appropriate option when these conditions cannot be met.

Under *The Animal Welfare Act* it is an offence to kill an animal in a manner that causes unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress. Whatever the reason for destroying an animal,

the primary aim of on farm slaughter is to bring about death with the minimum amount of pain, suffering and distress to the animal in question. However, we have to remember that the time we take in deciding when to euthanise an animal can become critical.

Dario Mendoza
Vetlife Alexandra

Hot off the press from the LUDF!

| A quick glance of weekly farm data | 21st Oct | 28th Oct | 4th Nov | 11th Nov |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Pasture growth rate (kg DM/d) | 89 | 66 | 58 | 99 |
| Pre-grazing pasture mass (kg DM/ha) | 3399 | 3223 | 3319 | 3278 |
| Average pasture mass | 2616 | 2558 | 2438 | 2545 |
| Post-grazing pasture mass | 1650 | 1650 | 1650 | 1650 |
| Pasture quality (MJME/kg DM) | 11.9 | - | 12.4 | 12.4 |
| Pasture offered (kg DM/cow/d) | 20.0 | - | 20.0 | 19.0 |
| Pasture silage offered (kg DM/cow/d) | - | - | - | 3 |
| Milk solids production (kg MS/cow/d) | 2.33 | 2.29 | 2.29 | 2.26 |
| Milk solids production (kg MS/ha/d) | 8.08 | 8.00 | 8.52 | 7.88 |
| Herd mean body condition score | 4.5 | - | 4.20 | - |
| Monitor group LW (kg) | 491 | - | - | 478 |
| Bulk milk somatic cell count ('000) | 185 | 168 | 153 | 159 |

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



You'll make the Cut

CHOOSE EITHER:

Kiwi 1/2 COB Ham 4.5-5.5kg or
Kiwi Banquet Ham 2.8-3.5kg*

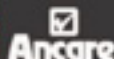


THIS FESTIVE SEASON WHEN YOU
PURCHASE SELECTED MERIAL
ANCARE PRODUCTS, YOU'LL
RECEIVE A 100% NZ KIWI HAM.

PROMO STARTS 01 NOV-20 DEC 2014.
FROM PARTICIPATING VETERINARY CLINICS.



QUALIFYING PRODUCTS: ARREST® 2x 20L, ARREST® Hi-Mineral 2x 20L, ECLIPSE® Pour-On 1x 2.5L, 5L or 10L, ECLIPSE® E Handpack 4x 500mL, EPRINEX® 1x 5L or 20L, EXODUS® 1% Injection 4x 500mL, EXODUS® Se 1x 20L, EXODUS® Pour-On 2x 5L or 1x 20L, EXODUS® Long Acting Injection 4x 500mL, FIRST® Drench Hi-Mineral 1x 20L, GENESIS® Hi-Mineral 2x 20L, GENESIS® Injection 4x 500mL, GENESIS® Injection B12 + Se 4x 500mL, GENESIS® Pour-On 1x 5L or 10L, GENESIS® Ultra Oral Hi-Mineral 1x 20L, GENESIS® Ultra Pour-On 1x 5L, IVER MATRDX® Tape Hi-Mineral 1x 10L or 20L, IVER MATRDX® Mini Dose 1x 10L or 20L, MATRDX® 1x 20L, MATRDX® Hi-Mineral 1x 20L or 50L, MATRDX® Tape Hi-Mineral 1x 10L or 20L, SWITCH® 1x 20L, SWITCH® Hi-Mineral 1x 20L or 50L, SWITCH® C 1x 10L or 20L, TRIMOX® 1x 20L.



PROUDLY AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL VETERINARY CLINIC.

*While stocks last

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Meet the Vetlife field representative team...



Owen Wylie
Ashburton
027 706 4448



James Ward
Oamaru
027 702 6768



Norma Barton
Oxford
027 432 7321



Vicky O'Connor
Pleasant Point
027 222 5721



Garry Marsh
Central Otago
& Wanaka
027 227 7881



Lis Rietveld
Twizel
027 430 4644



Max O'Donnell
Alexandra
027 608 5523



Craig Straw
Ashburton
027 228 9411



Rachel Duffy
Ranfurly
027 886 0255



Jacqueline Manson
Alexandra
027 702 4384



Rachelle Gould
Temuka
027 836 1327



Mark McCormick
Dunsandel
027 333 1782

Comments and feedback

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

Mid and North Canterbury Raylene Clement
P 03 307 5195 | M 027 557 3619
E rjclement@vetlife.co.nz
Vetlife Ashburton, 4 Seaford Road,
Ashburton 7700, PO Box 161

South Canterbury Adrian Campbell
P 027 220 5559 | E adrian@vetlife.co.nz
Head Office, 82 Sophia Street,
Private Bag 71000 Timaru

North Otago Ivan Holloway
P 03 433 0411 | M 027 530 4645
E ivan@vetlife.co.nz
Vetlife Oamaru, 281 Thames St, Oamaru, 9400

For account concerns please in the first instance contact: Jodi Cocking | P 03 6877170
E jodi.cocking@vetlife.co.nz
Head Office, 82 Sophia Street, Private Bag 71000 Timaru

Vetlife Ltd - a locally owned and owner operated business.

Vetlife Ltd is locally owned by veterinary shareholders who live in Canterbury and Otago.

Those shareholders personally manage Vetlife and work as veterinarians.

All business proceeds are invested back into the business locally and we provide careers and employment for 165+ local people and families.



Vetlife Alexandra
P 03 448 8115 F 03 448 7277 E alexandra@vetlife.co.nz

Vetlife Ashburton
P 03 307 5195 F 03 308 2452 E ashburton@vetlife.co.nz

Vetlife Banks Peninsula
P 03 325 1006 F 03 325 1053 E littlriver@vetlife.co.nz

Vetlife Dunsandel
P 03 325 4155 F 03 325 4156 E dunsandel@vetlife.co.nz

Vetlife Fairlie
P 03 685 8884 F 03 685 8085 E fairlie@vetlife.co.nz

Vetlife Methven
P 03 302 8603 F 03 302 8228 E methven@vetlife.co.nz

Vetlife Oamaru
P 03 433 0411 F 03 434 8059 E oamaru@vetlife.co.nz

Vetlife Oxford
P 03 312 4882 F 03 312 4190 E oxford@vetlife.co.nz

Vetlife Pleasant Point
P 03 614 7777 F 03 614 7701 E pleasantpoint@vetlife.co.nz

Vetlife Ranfurly
P 03 444 9700 F 03 444 9701 E ranfurly@vetlife.co.nz

Vetlife Rangiora
P 03 313 7962 F 03 313 7968 E rangiora@vetlife.co.nz

Vetlife Temuka
P 03 615 7352 F 03 615 5254 E temuka@vetlife.co.nz

Vetlife Timaru
P 03 684 8181 F 03 684 8180 E timaru@vetlife.co.nz

Vetlife Twizel
P 03 435 0212 F 03 435 0213 E twizel@vetlife.co.nz

Vetlife Waikouaiti
P 03 465 7613 F 03 465 8094 E waikouaiti@vetlife.co.nz

Vetlife Wanaka
P 03 443 6409 F 03 443 6408 E wanaka@vetlife.co.nz

