



The magazine of Cambridge Vets *treating all animals large and small*

April 2017

Alan Bremner Memorial Farm Customers' Golf Day!

Friday 12th May 2017

At Cambridge Golf Club - 9 holes only

(\$10 Green Fees Apply) Tee off from 9:30am until 1pm

This is not a tournament, just a really fun social occasion for farm clients.

- Multitude of prizes, not just for the golf!
- All day BBQ and liquid refreshments!
- Catch up with friends!
- Alan Bremner Memorial trophy!



Book at the clinic now with your membership number.

TB and Pigs

Hunters are helping to eradicate TB in the South Island by collecting feral pigs and looking for signs of TB in the lymph nodes under the jaw. Possums are the main transmitters to cattle and other animals; pigs carry the disease but don't spread it. This work will help OSPRI to pinpoint where the disease is to allow specific possum control.

Conversely, clean pigs will confirm the effects of good possum control and the eradication of TB from that area. The TBFree programme aims to eradicate TB from cattle and deer by 2026.



Small Block Seminar

Calling all small block farmers!

Date 30th May

Time: arrive **6.30pm**
presentations from **7pm**

Our vets will be giving presentations on the health and care of calves, lambs, chickens, alpacas and more! Please call or pop into the clinic to secure your place.

There will be an entry fee of \$20



There is a new electronic Animal Health Plan on the horizon Tailored to your farm and suitable for sheep, beef and dairy units, this app-based system is accessed by both farmer and vet. Reminders are automatically sent to both parties by text or email. The easy way to plan your animal health calendar! Please contact your vet for details.



**ALL STOCK. ALL TREATMENTS.
ALL IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND.**

THE EASY WAY TO MANAGE ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION

 <p>Plan animal health treatments for different stock for the entire year</p>	 <p>Know exactly when treatments are completed and with what product</p>
 <p>Treatments automatically display product information, dose rates and WHF</p>	 <p>Improve compliance with easy load batch numbers and expiry dates</p>
 <p>Email reminders notify you of upcoming tasks and treatments</p>	 <p>Maximise your clients' productivity and profitability by ensuring they're using the right product at the right time.</p>



Body Condition Score, feeding levels in the dry period, and Health Outcomes in the Dairy Cow

John Roche of Dairy NZ recently published an interesting study in the Journal of Dairy Science. They had 2 groups of cows; one that needed a big gain over the dry period in BCS to reach the calving target of 5.0, and one group that finished lactation close to BCS 5.0 and did not need to gain much over the dry period. In the early (far-off) dry period they overfed the first group. In the late (close-up) dry period they had 3 different feeding levels for both groups. All groups were managed to calve at BCS 5.0. Overfeeding during the far-off dry period did not appear to affect metabolic health around calving, at least when cows are optimally conditioned at calving. Level of feeding in the close-up period pre-calving is important; a restriction $\geq 35\%$ of ME requirements reduced early lactation milk production and gave blood tests of increased metabolic stress and inflammation. This study suggests that rapid BCS gain in the far-off nonlactating cow, as is customary in grazing systems, is not detrimental to the subsequent health of the cow, but restricting cows by more than 25% of their ME requirements in the month before calving should be avoided.

Welfare Update

A local farmer is being taken to court over a video of the worker moving a calf through a paddock by pulling it across the ground by one back leg. Now, it may be argued that for calves that are too weak to stand and too slippery/heavy/unwieldy to hold, and that have to be shifted a very short distance, then carefully pulling calves across wet grass/mud may be the most practical solution for calf and person. But that is a lot of If's.... However, in the Dairy Code of Welfare, minimum standard 17 states "Calves must be handled and moved in a manner which minimises distress and avoids pain, injury or suffering", and the upcoming requirements to walk bobbies up a ramp could be applicable here. We should also be aware of the Code of Welfare covering Transport, as it is also relevant. It has as a Minimum Standard "Only the minimum force required must be used when moving animals", and "Animals must not be thrown or dropped or lifted or dragged by their tail, head, horns, ears, limbs, wool, hair or feathers". In short, especially in these days when there is considerable public scrutiny, always think about how your handling of animals may be perceived – both by the animal, and a casual observer.

Non-Bovine Dairying

(Naomi Arnold, VetScript March 2017) A friend of mine was recently involved in the development and construction of a commercial milking shed for sheep. Indeed, the goat and sheep dairying sectors have seen a recent rapid expansion. There are currently 73 farm members of the Dairy Goat Co-op, milking nearly 55,000 goats. Sheep dairy producers number 16 (mostly owned or in partnership with the Chinese), with 26,000 ewes. Most of these are descended from East Friesians imported in the 1990s. So why is the non-bovine sector looking more likely to succeed now than with previous



attempts? Massey lecturer Craig Pritchard points to the market being ready, with huge demand from China. Alternative dairy is perceived as "kinder, gentler and more authentic" – sheep and goat farming typically produce far less nitrogen output than bovine producers for example, and consumers are keen to trace the origins of their food (the old paddock to plate traceability). The suggestion is that NZ should not focus too much on mass production, as we are not a huge country, but could perhaps concentrate on high-end markets, with value-added products.

My thought was maybe this is something the dairy sector could learn from too...

Stay on top of Mastitis with This Exciting New Test.

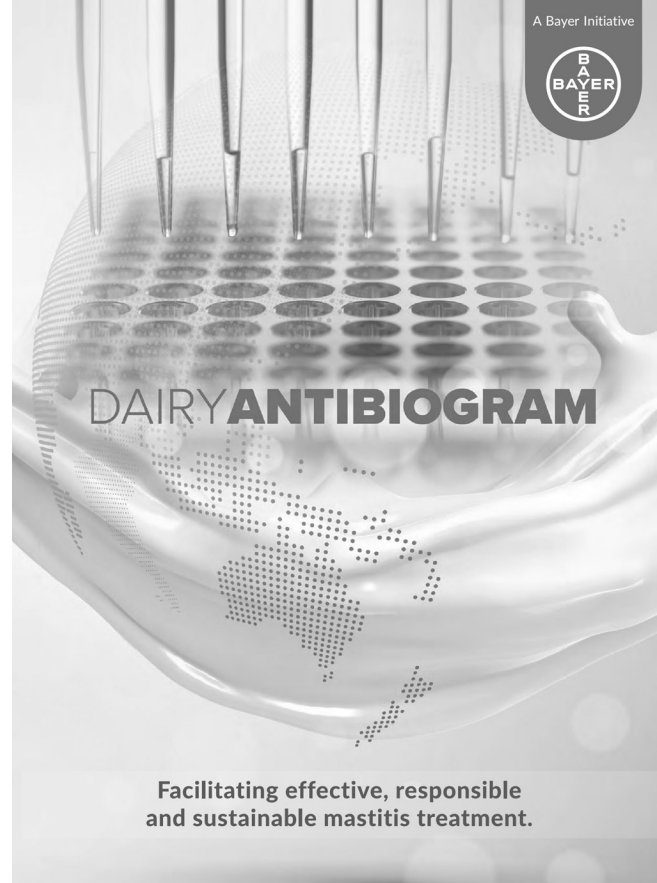
DairyAntibiogram is a new test now available to NZ dairy farmers which detects and monitors ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE in mastitis bacteria.

Antibiotic resistance is a serious health problem arising in both human and animal medicine alike. It is a problem where bacteria become more able to survive in the presence of antibiotic treatments, causing infections which are increasingly difficult to cure. The end result is a situation where we are powerless to treat infections which were once very responsive to antibiotics. Antibiotics are a valuable tool in the dairy industry, and when used responsibly, they are vital for the maintenance of good animal health and welfare. Bacterial resistance to these valuable treatments is a threat to the viability of dairy farming, and is perceived as a threat to human health. Knowledge of the resistance status in your herd is the key to choosing the right treatments for your cows, and for monitoring and preventing the development and spread of bacterial resistance.

DairyAntibiogram is a new test which shows you how sensitive the bacteria on your farm are to different mastitis treatments. The test is easy to have done, as it is performed on bulk milk samples taken from the milk processors.

A DairyAntibiogram will give you valuable information which, with the direction from your vet, will help you:

1. Plan to use effective mastitis treatments
2. Avoid using expensive treatments when other cheaper options are shown to be effective
3. Know your resistance status and how this ranks compared to other farms in the country
4. Develop biosecurity plans to protect a "Good" resistance status
5. Identify threats to your herd which can be investigated further and managed or removed
6. Monitor if your resistance status is changing over time
7. Help your dairy industry demonstrate that it is using antibiotics responsibly
8. A DairyAntibiogram provides essential information to ensure the sustainability of using antibiotics on your farm. Contact your vet to book in a time to discuss implementing DairyAntibiogram data into your mastitis management plan.



TEAT SEAL

Many farmers are turning to Teat Seal, to reduce the use of antibiotics in cows and to reduce the risk of mastitis in heifers. It is well proven to reduce mastitis and cell count, but cow selection and administration is critical.

Please ring us if you want your heifers teat sealed; recent research suggests it can be done a considerable time before calving.

The Various Vet Journal publications are still highly focused on AMR (anti-microbial resistance) and how this will impact on farmers and vets and society as a whole. A timely read with DCT consults coming up!

One article particularly caught my eye: Prof Greg Cook (a microbiologist from the University of Otago) is teaming up with VetSouth and Deosan to try and develop new teat sanitisers. We only have 2 commonly used ingredients – chlorhexidine and iodine. But chlorhexidine is also used in human medicine and is on WHO's list of essential medicines – there is a possibility that its use may one day be reviewed and restricted. The scientist / vet / manufacturer team are cooperating to analyze the types of organisms causing mastitis and to design molecules that can target particular bacteria. If this can be extended to develop a wider variety of teat spray actives, there could be a choice allowing different products to be used at different times depending on the type of bug challenging the cow. This could improve the prevention of mastitis and reduce the risk of resistance or product withdrawal. Exciting times!



