



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

April 2018

## Alan Bremner Memorial Farm Customers' Golf Day!

**Friday 11th May 2018**

At Cambridge Golf Club - 9 holes only

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

**This is a really fun social occasion for farm clients.**

- ◆ Multitude of prizes, not just for the golf
- ◆ Catch up with friends
- ◆ All day BBQ and liquid refreshments
- ◆ Alan Bremner Memorial trophy
- ◆ No gumboots allowed on course!

**Book at the clinic now with your membership number.**



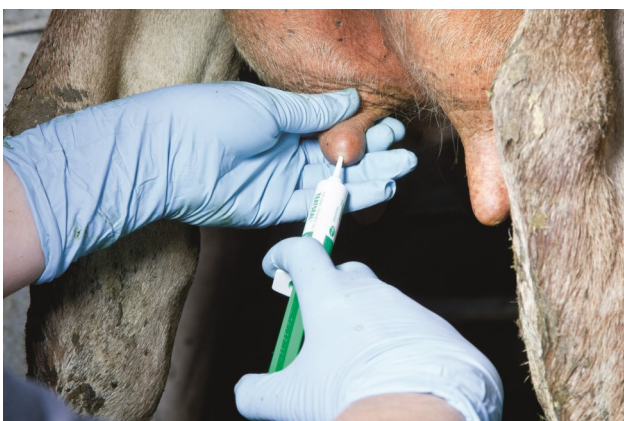
INVITES YOU TO..  
**“THE FUTURE OF DRY COW THERAPY”**

**FARMER SEMINAR – 17<sup>th</sup> April**

We are hosting a lunchtime seminar on drying-off, teat sealant and sustainable strategies on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April.

It will be an enjoyable, informal, informative 90 minute presentation and discussion.

Please phone the clinic to book places as numbers are limited.



### **HOOF KNIFE SHARPENING SERVICE**

We are going to offer a knife sharpening service to our clients if there is enough interest!

They will get sent off to be sharpened and returned a week or two later.

Estimated price: \$10 per knife.

If you are interested, please let us know and drop them off in a protector (eg rubber liner), labelled with your name, and scrubbed & disinfected.

# MILK QUALITY CONSULTS, DRY COW AND DRUG AUTHORIZATIONS

Drying off is not far away, particularly for low condition cows.

Mastitis and milk quality are important to the profitability of your farming operation, and the

Milk Quality Consultation is a really good opportunity to go over herd health, and to discuss any concerns and make a plan for the coming season. We can review and renew your restricted drug authorization at the same time.

There is a legal and ethical requirement to have a proper consultation process in order to authorize and dispense PARs.

As you know there is a growing realization that we all need to be using antibiotics responsibly and appropriately to minimize the risk of antimicrobial resistance and residues. The Veterinary Association and other stakeholders have a goal that DCT is only to be used on high SCC cows i.e. Blanket Dry Cow will be replaced by Selective Dry Cow by 2020.

This will require a greater focus on disease prevention, health, hygiene, husbandry, advice, and control of diseases.

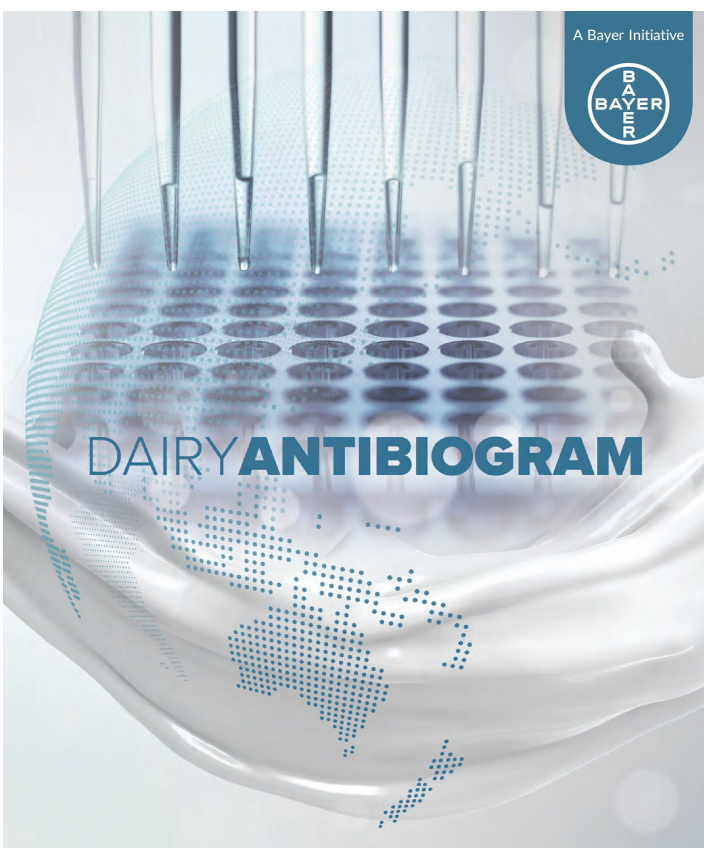
Recommendations are that farms and vets should formulate a Herd Health Plan. Antimicrobial use should involve:

- Reduction (through good milking practice, husbandry, vaccination, accurate diagnosis and treatment decisions)
- Refinement (Checking effectiveness of treatments and doing diagnostic tests)
- Replacement (e.g. using Teat Seal for low SCC cows at drying off)
- Responsibility (engaging with these challenges)
- Review your plan and practices regularly

**To help meet these guidelines, we are offering the Antibioqram, the Animal Health Plan, and Infovet.**

## **ANTIBIOGRAM**

This is a great test done on your bulk milk, which looks for Staph aureus and Strep uberis. Antibiotic sensitivity / resistance is then checked for these bacteria. This information helps us to gauge whether a mastitis issue is primarily environmental or contagious. It also aids us in choosing the best treatment and dry-off options for your herd specifically. The more years' data this test has the more useful it will become as we can see trends emerging. All we need to do is send off a form with your details and the collection is done automatically.



Facilitating effective, responsible and sustainable mastitis treatment.



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

## THE EASY WAY TO MANAGE ANIMAL HEALTH INFORMATION



Plan animal health treatments for different stock for the entire year



Know exactly when treatments are completed and with what product



Treatments automatically display product information, dose rates and WHP



Improve compliance with easy load batch numbers and expiry dates



Email reminders notify you of upcoming tasks and treatments



Maximise your clients' productivity and profitability by ensuring they're using the right product at the right time.



## **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.



Alex Smith joined us for 9 months after a stint in the South Island and here are some of his thoughts.

## Canterbury vs Waikato – a veterinary perspective

Herd size and ownership structure is probably the most significant difference on the dairy front between the two regions. In Canterbury the focus is on herd level health and performance so a significant proportion of veterinary work is directed towards analysis, preventative planning, and herd level monitoring and management. The Waikato's smaller dairy herds and large number of established owner operators means there is a bias towards individual animals in the veterinary caseload. As the end of the season draws near, cows in Canterbury will be heading towards a winter off farm on crops. High yields from fodder beet and notable improvements in cow condition over the dry period has meant the crop's use has increased dramatically over recent years. However, problems are

encountered every year with poor transition management and breakouts. Due to climatic constraints very little maize is grown in Canterbury. The need for summer crops is also generally negated as irrigation maintains grass growth through the drier months. While Mycoplasma Bovis has become a disease synonymous with the south island, and particularly parts of Canterbury, other animal health issues common in the Waikato such as Facial Eczema and Theileria are extremely uncommon. Anecdotally, Ryegrass staggers seems a lot more prevalent in the Waikato too. Trace element deficiencies are common in Canterbury soils, so rigorous monitoring and supplementation regimes are implemented to manage this. In addition to meeting some good folk and spending time in a great part of New Zealand, the last nine months has been an intriguing opportunity to experience the farming and animal health differences between the Waikato and Canterbury.

## Milk Cultures

Milk cultures are such a useful tool for a dairy farm, be it cow, goat or sheep. Identifying the bacteria will give you information on what the underlying cause and method of spread is so you can focus on reducing those specific risks. It will also tell us which types of treatment are most likely to work, or if culling is a better option. This is useful not just for clinical cases but also for sub-clinical mastitis where the cell count is high. We run milk cultures in clinic which test for a range of bacteria, and it is quick and good value. If you want to submit some samples, please carefully teat wipe first, and aim the 6<sup>th</sup> squirt into a tipped pottle (to avoid contamination).

**Label, refrigerate and drop off!**

## BVD IN BEEF

It has been shown that 65% of NZ beef herds have active BVD infection. Because the calves are running with the cows for an extended period, any PI calf (carrier) can spread it round the herd much quicker than in the dairy situation. The impacts of BVD infection range from reduced fertility, abortions, dummy / deformed calves born, compromised immunity leading to infections, reduced growth rates, ill thrift, and ultimately scouring, wasting and death for any PI animals. These can be hard to quantify, but the financial cost can be large. If your beef herd had any of the problems listed above, or a high empty rate, it is worth doing a risk assessment and taking 15 blood samples to check the BVD status of your herd. Biosecurity, testing and vaccination options can all be discussed with your vet.



## TEAT SEALING HEIFERS

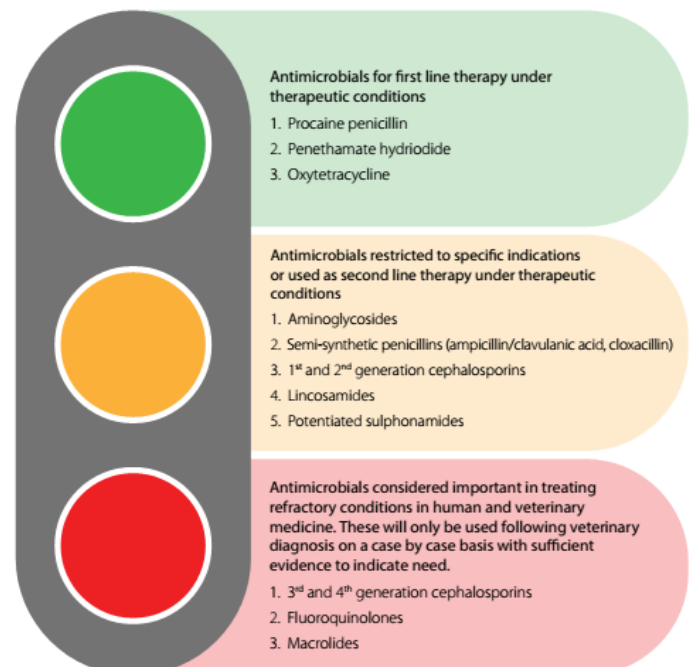
This job has become part of the calendar routine for most farms now! Please book us in advance to help us get organized to make the job as streamlined as possible for you.

## Drenching

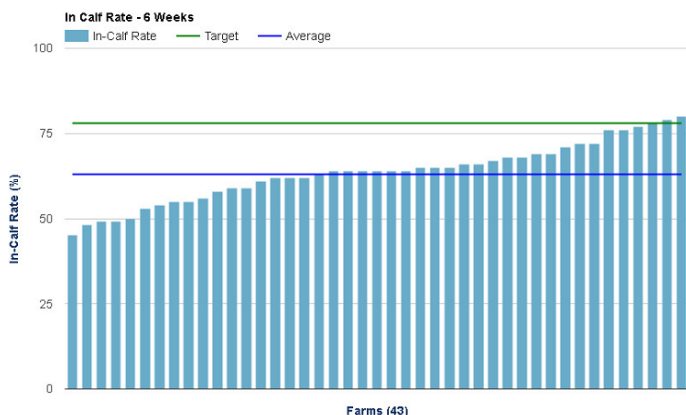
I have recently seen a couple of cases of worms in calves which only affected 1 in the mob, but it was pretty severe. In both cases Pour-On was used. Now it seemed to work on the rest of the mob, so I am not convinced it was resistance. More likely the dosing gun had an air blockage, or half of it was licked off by other calves grooming it. But it reinforces the message that if you are using Pour-On, keep an eye on any calves that are not blooming like the others, as they may need another dose. If the whole mob are not blooming, take some faecal samples 7-10 days after drenching so we can check for Faecal Egg Count / Resistance.

## DID YOU KNOW?!

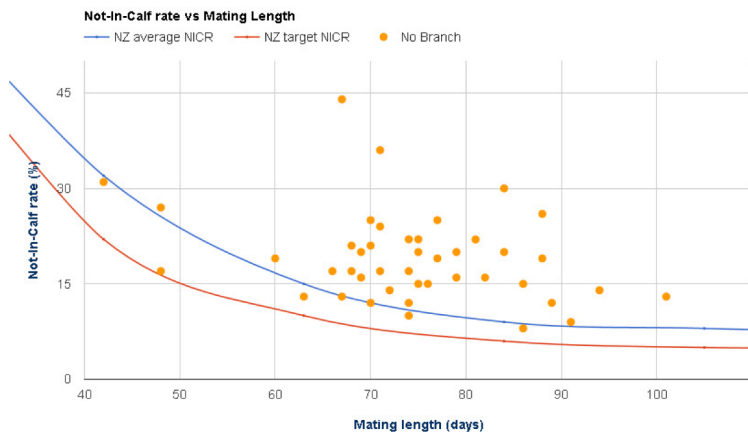
Most environmental mastitis around calving is actually picked up in the dry period. So Teat Seal not only reduces Dry Period Mastitis, it also reduces mastitis and cell count for months afterwards. There is a Traffic Light system for different types of antibiotics. We are encouraged to minimize use of "Red" antibiotics in particular.



# REPRO BENCHMARKING — HOW DID YOU DO?



\*Target rate supplied by DairyNZ



\*Target and Average rates supplied by DairyNZ

The average 6 week In Calf rate for our Infonet Clients was 64%

The empty rates were up as can be seen from the graph.

With a very wet spring affecting nutrition, and then a hot December possibly affecting bull performance, 2017 wasn't the best year for reproductive performance in the district, but we had some farmers who did really well.

These were notably people who had done analysis on the year before, identified areas to improve, and made a plan.

We are really keen to help your farm to maximize its performance,

so please contact your vet if you want us to do an InCalf Assessment.

**DEMAND DECTOMAX AND THE JERSEY IS YOURS!**

See in clinic for details.



www.dectomax.co.nz

## LATEST CLINIC NEWS



We bid Alex a fond farewell as he finishes his locum stint with us to take up a job in the South Island again. We hope you enjoyed his company and sense of humour as much as we did!

Out with the new and in with the old (sorry Julie)! We welcome back Julie as she returns from maternity leave. Back to full time work after full time parenting Maisie!



Peter ran his first triathlon in Morrinsville last month. "Amanda entered my name when she entered the kids, and I thought 'How hard can it be!' Well I wasn't last exactly....but I'm determined to have another crack next year and better my time!"

WHEN ONLY *The Best* WILL DO

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTE



THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE for Quality

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So to keep your stock in optimum condition this season.

accept nothing less than the best.

Not only will you be rewarded with outstanding results - you'll go home with some premium quality R.M. Williams gear. Only with qualifying products, while stocks last!

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MATRIX SWITCH

EXODUS ECLIPSE



Products available from your local veterinary clinic.

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