Our next seminar will be a MATING SEMINAR on the evening of 15th September, again in our clinic with pizzas and drinks. Please phone us to book a place – it will be a great opportunity to have a yarn and pretend you are discussing mating!
In a South Island study, nearly 2000 non-cyclers were CIDR’d and AI’d at PSM. Then they were scanned at 23 days if they had not returned on heat. They were also tested for progesterone levels in milk with a cow-side test. Cows confirmed not pregnant were either resynchronized with the same treatment program (being AI’d at day 35 of mating), or received no further treatment. They were then scanned again at 80-90 days.

There were several interesting figures:
- 38% of treated non-cyclers conceived to first insemination
- 55% were pregnant by day 23
- 68% were pregnant by day 42
- 77% were pregnant by end of 12 weeks mating
- 29% of treated non-cyclers went phantom (not-pregnant, but did not return to heat)
- 43% of cows not returning to oestrus were phantom
- 48% of the treated phantoms were pregnant by day 42 – twice as likely as...
- 28% of non-treated phantoms were pregnant by day 42

By the end of mating the final pregnancy rate for resynchronized was 67% and non-treated phantoms was 62%.

The re-synchrony program increased the herd pregnancy rate at 42 days by 1.4% and increased herd days in milk by 0.5 per 100 cows.

26% of cows with low milk progesterone 23 days after PSM were actually pregnant!

CONCLUSION: In cows not observed in oestrus and treated before PSM, resynchronization increased the proportion pregnant by 42 days after PSM.

CLINICAL RELEVANCE: The benefit of resynchronization depends on the number of anoestrous cows before PSM and the number of phantom cows after PSM. However at the herd-level it is likely that focusing on reducing the known risk factors for cows not cycling before the PSM may well be more cost effective than identifying and treating a sub-population of phantom cows.
Transforming Dryland Sheep and Beef Farms

Derrick Moot won a Best Speaker prize at the recent vet conference. His paper looked at making dryland grazing farms sustainable from production / profit and environmental perspectives. The studies were based in Canterbury, but some lessons could be applied to Waikato summers! Obviously both nitrogen and water have a huge impact on productivity, but irrigation has a cost. Urea is a simple solution for adding nitrogen to the mix, but at an environmental impact; we import nearly 400,000 tonnes of the stuff annually, but about 1.3 million tonnes of CO₂ are produced in its manufacture. Using legumes within the pasture mix yields free nitrogen fixation, gives high ME pasture and sheep like eating them! On several example farms, conversion to a legume-mix pasture increased both productivity and profitability. Lucerne has a deep tap root for better dry spell production, but potential animal health problems include:

- Increased risk of red gut (feeding fibre, clostridial vaccination important)
- Oestrogenic compounds (coumestrol) can decrease ovulation/twinning if consumed during mating
- B12 deficiency
- Bloat
- Salt deficiency

My Goodness – Lame cows!

A wet winter has seen many farms battling with an increasing number of lame cows. Excess moisture wicks through the sole and hoof wall creating a soft foot (remember what your skin looks like after a long soak in the bath). This combined with standing on concrete leads to bruising and development of a sole penetration, especially in heifers. The current cost per lame cow is estimated at $315. Prompt treatment will reduce the associated drop in milk production and weight loss and will improve the cows chance of getting back in-calf. And yes lame cows are in pain!

Helpful tips to reduce lameness:
- The backing gate is only to be used to occupy space – it is not used to push cows
- Allow space on the yards for cows to move into their milking order
- Stay in the pit – milker’s should only enter the yard when necessary
- Allow cows to drift along the races – do not push
- Heads up is an indicator of too much pressure
- Minimise time spent on concrete
- Ensure stones are not being dragged onto concrete surfaces

CVS has two experienced Healthy Hoof Advisors. They can assist in the development of a comprehensive program to minimize the impact lame cows may be having on your business.

Johnes’ Disease in Goats

(Angus Black NZVP - Vetscript August 2016). Just as cows and sheep are susceptible to Johnes’ Disease, so too are goats. In fact, goats can become infected by both the cow and sheep subtypes of the bacteria Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis. However, it presents differently in goats: affected animals are generally older than 12 months, with gradual weight loss, depression, altered breathing, weak, and a drop in milk production. Whereas cows exhibit watery diarrhoea, goats rarely do, although their faeces may become soft and non-pelleted.

The main transmission is via faeces, and the organism can survive for up to 12 months in the environment. Stocking density has a major impact on spread, so dairy goats are more susceptible.

Other modes of transmission include milk, semen and urine, and the bacteria can cross the placenta to infect the foetus before birth.

Because the signs are fairly vague, other diseases need to be ruled out such as parasite burden, nutrition, mineral deficiency or tooth issues.

It may only present as an increase in the tail end of the mob, or a drop in milk production (one example was 10% drop by season).

We can test for it with blood samples, but it can be quite hard to detect if the bacteria are not multiplying. There is also a milk test for cattle.

Vaccination can decrease shedding of the organism and clinical disease, but does not absolutely prevent infection. Give us a ring if you are concerned your goats are not producing as well as they should be.

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We christened our new clinic with the first Spring Seminar within its walls! Thanks to Chris Crickett and Julie Hetherington who engaged the attendees with discussions on calving, metabolics, calf rearing and mastitis.

You may have seen or spoken to some new people at the counter recently. We would like to welcome Katrina and Karen to our CVS team. Katrina will be covering the phones whilst Christina is on maternity leave. She is a farmer and an AI technician. Originally from England she migrated here in 2013. Katrina has two dogs and two cats and is loving kiwi life.

Karen’s role is at the front desk, and she will be the person who greets you if you come in over the weekend. Karen is a mum to two boys, recently moved down from Auckland and is enjoying Cambridge lifestyle.

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We would like to remind you that for bona fide farm clients with a genuine emergency, we do NOT charge extra for after-hours call outs. This courtesy is to encourage prompt attention for positive welfare, and in acknowledgement that you can’t help the timing of emergencies!

We would like to invite children with an Ag day calf, lamb or goat to submit a photo of their animal and themselves. They can be emailed to cambvet@xtra.co.nz or dropped off at the clinic. There will be two categories: ages 5-8 and 9-12. Let us know your details, child’s age, pet’s name and your contact details, and state if we can post the photo on our Facebook page. We will have a judging competition at the end of October with PRIZES TO BE WON!

Later in October The Small Animal Department will be hosting an education evening. We aim to present interesting and useable information to help you keep your pets in the best health possible. Rotating through 4 display areas, we will present 4 experienced speakers on the following topics: vaccinations, parasites, nutrition and dentals. We will walk owners through a complete dental demonstration.

Please join us for an interesting, free evening. Please call Katrina at the clinic (07 827 7099) to register your interest.

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