



treating all animals large and small

Other important factors for lameness

are the size of the fat pad in the heel

(this dissipates force onto the hoof

walls, and is linked to BCS) and the

heifers'

very beneficial effect.

thickness of the sole.

September 2018

## LAMENESS

New research on lameness in dairy cows has shown the importance of preventing the first lifetime lameness incident. Jon Huxley is the new head of the Massey Vet School (another outstanding 1990s graduate from London!) and he brings a wealth of What can you do? The importance of knowledge, research and enthusiasm. track condition, careful use of the He recently outlined a change in our backing gate, treating lame cows understanding of the progress of promptly are still critical. In addition, lameness. If a cow becomes lame, maintaining BCS will help cushion she grows little spurs on the sole of their feet with the fat pad in the heel. her toe bone which impacts on the And a new concept cells below that grow sole horn. So Conditioning sole which predisposes to lameness on concrete before calving.

and the cycle continues....The good news is that trimming or using cowslips (thus relieving the pressure







to

feet

me

by

### **Bloat!**

We have seen a few cases of ruminal bloat recently.

Be careful grazing fast growing lush pasture, especially if it has lots of clover. Bloateze can be added to the water or drenched in individual affected cows. Be it first!! Alternatively Rumensin careful to dilute boluses can be administered orally and last for 100 days. If you need to do an emergency bloat stab, remember to go on the left side of the cow behind the ribs, use a knife with a guard to protect your fingers, and just insert and twist the blade (don't slash!).

### on those hoof producing cells) has a Nitrate

Got paddocks sown with new, annual ryegrass?

Consider testing it for nitrate levels. Fast-growing young grass can hold high levels of nitrate, especially in cloudy weather or paddocks which have had nitrogen fertiliser applied recently. We have a simple kit available in the clinic which will tell us if it is safe, toxic, or needs carefully managed grazing.

Signs of nitrate poisoning are a mob of cows found dead, and more down with grev or brown mucous membranes. If you see this scenario, then you get haemorrhage and weak gradually introducing them to walking move the mob off that pasture immediately and ring us. We treat this as a priority emergency and will come to treat them intravenously.

> FEI grading is now in place. The fat component of PKE can vary between 3-10% from load to load, so it is important to be monitoring FEI and PKE use (proportion of diet), and to have a plan for alternative feedstuff if necessary. For example, allocate more pasture/silage to lactating cows and more PKE to drystock (but be careful with springers as PKE is high in phosphorous and can predispose to milk fever). Other factors can have an impact such as total DMI, fodderbeet, breed and stage of lactation. DairyNZ have a great information sheet:

https://www.dairynz.co.nz/feed/ supplements/palm-kernel-extract-pke

# Mycoplasma

**Situation:** There are currently 37 Infected Properties, with one recently confirmed in Northland.

Coming into mating, biosecurity takes on another level for reduction of risk. By now, disinfection protocols should be routine, with all visitors disinfecting on and off your property. The water needs to be clean, so refresh and add more disinfectant to the boot bucket daily, and provide a brush!

Ensure you do a risk assessment for purchased or leased bulls. Where are they from? Were they reared on the property? Have they serviced other farms? If so, where? Have they or the mob been tested for Mycoplasma? Remember a "Not Detected" result is not a guarantee of not harbouring the bacteria, but there is some assurance if the whole mob has been tested negative.

Increasing the AI period will reduce the number of bulls you need (and any degree of risk they may pose), but this has its own challenges with regards to heat detection and ensuring an optimal submission rate in the first round or 2 of mating.

Regional breakdown of IPs		
Region	Total	Active
Northland	1	1
Hawkes Bay	3	2
Manawatū	1	1
Waikato	3	3
Wairarapa	1	1
Tasman	1	1
Canterbury	33	18
Otago	8	4
Southland	16	6
Total	67	37
The numbers are accurate as at 10am Friday 31/8, and often change daily.		



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### **ANTIBIOGRAM**

There is a new version of the Bulk **Milk Antibiogram** which will test Strep and Staph with 10 antibiotics for resistance. This is a really good way of monitoring development of antibiotic resistance over time, and for choosing the best (and cheapest) treatment/DCT for vour herd. Please contact the clinic for more details.

Tail painting 4-5 weeks before mating has many advantages. It gives you the option of the Why Wait Program which involves injecting cycling cows with PG to bring them on a week early and maximize early submission rate. It tail requires weekly painting. If a cow cycles 7-14 days before PSM she is painted green and injected on day 0. If a cow cycles the week before PSM she is painted blue and injected on day 7. Metricheck your cows with us and receive free tail paint

Call us today to find out more details.

If there is a high proportion of non-cyclers (Cows that remain red) you may want to assess your feed budget to check they are on a rising plane of nutrition. They should be examined or treated for example a week before PSM (which will bring 2 jobs together with the Why wait program).

#### CIDRs are a great tool for synchronizing oestrus and still the best intervention for non-cyclers.

The program gives the best ROI if done early (ie the week before PSM). It is a 10 day program, with the cidr removed and a PG injection after a week. Virgin heifers can be synchronized to optimize AI visits, either with a 9 day CIDR program (and one fixed time AI) or with PG injections (with AI to heat over about 3 days).

### Have you Metrichecked your herd yet?

- Cows with endometritis conceive 2-3 weeks later and have 10-20% higher empty rates
- Cows that have had RFMs, difficult calving, milk fever, twins or ketosis are more likely to have endometritis (28% are metricheck positive). However, through sheer number of cows, we will find more metricheckpositive cows in the rest of the herd; 71% of dirty cows are not At Risk.
- Treating metricheck positive cows (irrigating with metriclean) resulted in them conceiving 8 days earlier, with 10% higher 6-week in calf rate and 3.2% higher in calf rate at 84 days
- Early treatment gives better results than late checking (as later some look clean but actually still have an Infection so are not treated and end up with 7% lower 6 week ICR).



Mebricheck<sup>m</sup> results for At Risk cows



Metricheck<sup>m</sup> results for Non At Risk cows



FIGURE 3 Propertion of At Risk to Ion At Risk in Metricheck<sup>n</sup> positive cows

**Blood testing pre-mating** can highlight deficiencies and reveal the hidden disease of Sub-clinical **Ketosis**. A standard Lactating Cow Profile on 10 cows measures levels of Magnesium, Selenium, Copper and BOH. This last one is a product of fat breakdown; if levels are high the cows are in a negative energy balance. The ketones produced depress milk production and oestrus. Re-assessing your feed budget or using products such as Rumenox or Rumensin will be warranted.

# Mating Tips

# and Reminders

**BCS is a major KPI**, and should be monitored regularly to ensure 90% of the herd lose less than 0.5 score between calving and mating. We have qualified vets ready to give your herd an "outside" assessment for you.

### **Heat Detection**

It is widely acknowledged that Heat detection aids such as Kamars can improve accuracy. And now, to reduce pressure on staff, there are a whole battery of new electronic aids for oestrus detection, and the more parameters they measure, the more accurate the model. Activity, rumination, riding, milk production can all be used. BUT. No technology gives a perfect result. A recent study from Ireland analysed acceleration patterns in 3D from neck collars. It detected 87% of heats (confirmed by progesterone levels, ultrasound and observation) which is good but not perfect. However only 72% of alerts were true positives. Human confirmation is still an important part of the picture, so make sure your staff are fully trained in heat detection and motivated to be looking and tail painting.

- Rub marks
- Riding
- Chin resting
- Vocalizing
- Increased Walking
- Bulling strings
- 3 weeks after previous heat display

### Drenching **Commercial Lambs**

While it is critical for health and production that the worm burden is minimized in your lambs, drenching them unnecessarily is not only a waste of money but will actually select for resistant worms. Faecal Egg Counts are a simple assessment of worm burden to see if the mob needs drenching or not. Just drop off some faecal samples to the clinic and we can do the test in house. Another useful variation of this test is to do it just before drenching, and then sample the same lambs 7-10 days after drenching to assess the efficacy of the drench. If there is a reduction of <90% then resistance is becoming an issue and choice of products will need to be discussed. Other ways to reduce resistance include:

- Refugia don't drench the top 10% of the mob, so the worms they shed will not be selected for resistance. These worms will generally outperform any with resistance genes, thus diluting their presence on farm.
- Co-grazing with other species
- Rotation of paddocks used for young stock to minimize worm build-up

### AG day Lambs

We talked about feeding and rearing kids and lambs in the last Vet Advisor (available from our website). Just a reminder that we will vaccinate Ag Day Lambs and kids free to support our local schools. This is generally done when they are rung, and repeated a month later, to protect against Pulpy Kidney and Tetanus.



### (07) 827 7099 0800 226 838







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