

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

June 2020

WELFARE REGULATIONS

Updated welfare regulations relating to surgical procedures will be coming over the next 24 months. This includes things like castration and dehorning. They have yet to be finalized, but the main differences I can spot are:

- Local anaesthetic will be required for vaginal prolapses in cattle and goats
- Local anaesthetic will be required for castrating goats over 6 months
- Local anaesthetic will be required for tail-docking sheep over 6 months
- Pain relief will be required for disbudding and dehorning sheep and goats

This will require training and authorization if owners want to do them, just like for disbudding calves.

In addition there will be a minimum tail length when docking lambs' tails

GOLF DAY

Apologies to all our clients – we were really looking forward to having a social catch-up this year. Unfortunately this little pesky Covid Pandemic put paid to that, and we finally had a good weather day too! Hopefully we can find another way to say "thanks" with a social event later in the year.



Gossip

Welcome Brenda!

We would like to introduce you to our newest member of staff, who you will meet when she welcomes you at our front counter.

Brenda was born and raised in Cambridge. She has always had a love of animals and studied Animal Care at Wintec.

"I am very excited about joining the team and look forward to meeting and helping all our clients at Cambridge Vets".

Spring Seminar

We will be holding our annual Spring Seminar Wednesday 1st July. It is free to members, a nice opportunity to train up new staff and a fun refresher for old hands! Even more enticing, lunch will be provided!

Topics to be covered include:

- Calving
- Metabolics
- Mastitis
- Calf Health

Please contact the clinic to book a place



Mycoplasma Bovis – Beef Survey

The M bovis Programme has recently announced that MPI is implementing a National Beef Survey, to complement the dairy bulk milk surveillance. The background is that although it looks like M bovis originated from a single introduction to the dairy sector, it subsequently spread by animal movements to beef properties, which now account for most confirmed infections.

The survey will utilize the ELISA test to look for exposure and will sample:

- Cattle from 2500+ beef breeding herds at TB testing
- Cattle from beef-finishers at slaughter / meat-processors

Positive results at a farm-level (minimum sample sizes or aggregate results will be used to reduce false positives) will lead to further on-farm testing.

Farms are not being targeted because they are thought to be infected; this is a nationwide survey.

Mastitis

Well, we are pretty much through our teat sealing season – hopefully that reduces our heifer mastitis in spring.

A few pointers on other things to address mastitis this season:

- Get the shed serviced by an MPTA technician; vacuum level, pulsators and regulator function are all critical for good teat health.
- Replace all liners and any worn rubberware. Liners do not like being left stretched over winter; best to fit new ones.
- Ensure a clean environment for calving cows – don't have them too tight
- Teat spray – 5ml for every teat, every milking. Add emollient over spring.
- RMT cows as they leave the colostrum mob and enter the milking mob.
- Strip the herd if clots in the filter sock.
- Treat cows promptly and appropriately – what products to use when should be part of the RVM/DCT consultation with your vet.
- Consider the Antibioqram bulk milk test to analyse sensitivity/resistance to antibiotics and to monitor trends on your farm.
- Do you know what causes most of your mastitis? Submit samples to us for cost-effective culture. We are seeing more Serratia and E. coli these days, not just streps and staphs. Remember to teat wipe thoroughly before sampling prior to treatment, otherwise we just grow dirt / skin bugs. Label and refrigerate.
- Herd tests will give you a good indication of infection level, transmission of mastitis, cure rate over the dry period, and the need for DCT at the end of the season.

If you have any concerns about mastitis, cell count or teat condition, please feel free to phone us. We have vets very experienced at mastitis investigations.

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Although we have all had enough of pandemics recently, I thought I should mention ASF as it has spread around the globe! We have not yet had it in NZ, but if we do it will be very serious because we have so many wild pigs and an estimated 8000 lifestyle blocks with pigs, making it very hard to trace and eradicate. There is no vaccine or treatment, and it can be transmitted via wild pigs, ticks, infected pork/blood fat and bone, or direct from pig to pig. Signs include fever, anorexia, loss of condition, pneumonia, red blotchy skin, coughing, vomiting, malaise and death.

The most important things to say:

- All food waste (containing meat) fed to pigs **MUST** be cooked
- Look out for the signs

BENCHMARKING BTSCC

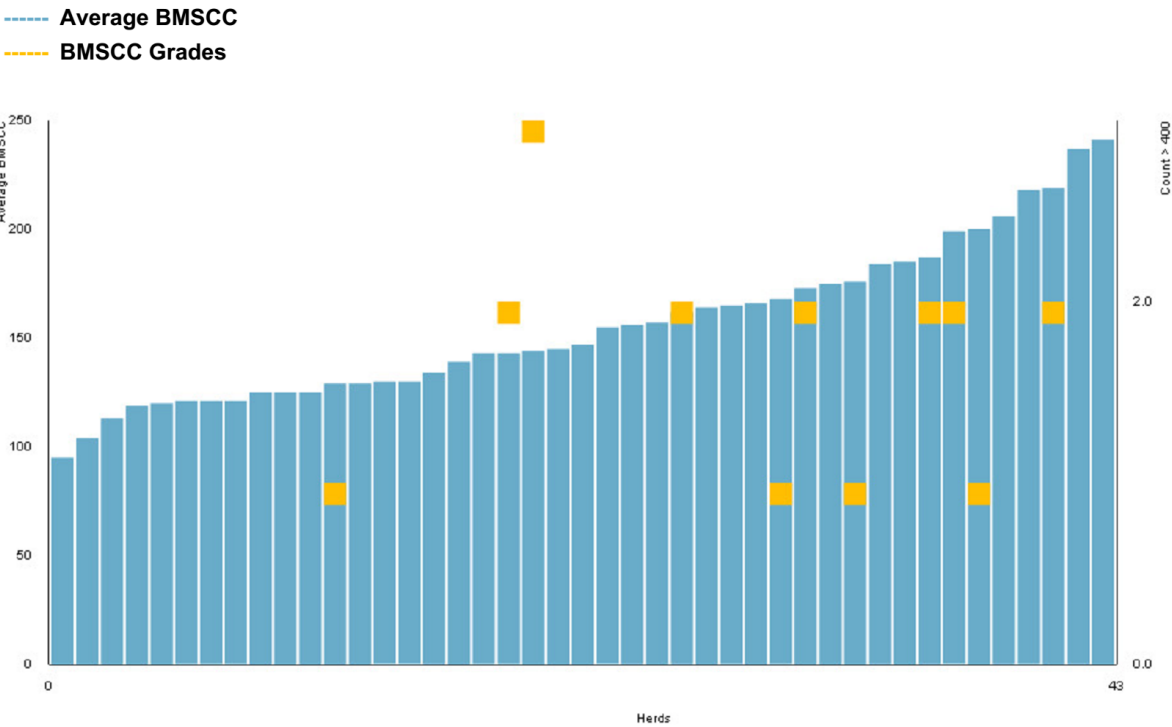
The average BTSCC for our clients this season gone was 156. How do you compare?

The ISCC graph shows the average cell count for cows and heifers. If your herd correspond to one of the spikes, you may want to have a conversation with your vet. Cell count is related to yield, and often costs a farm more than clinical mastitis does.

BMSCC - Bulk Milk Somatic Count Report

Selected Clinic: All Clinics - Selected Farm: All Farms

Season: Early 2019

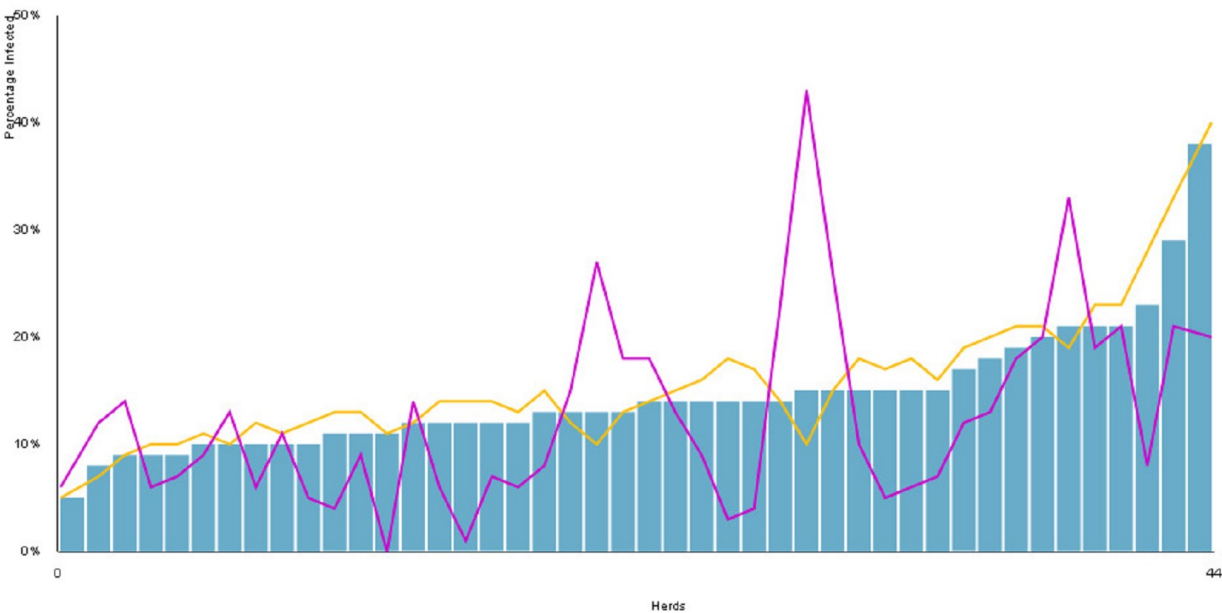


ISCC - Subclinical Mastitis Report

Selected Clinic: All Clinics - Selected Farm: All Farms

Season: Early 2019

- Legend:
- Heifers
 - Mixed age cows
 - Herd



Metabolics & Milk Fever

The cow undergoes a huge metabolic shift as she calves and comes into lactation. Her demand for energy and minerals shoots up, often faster than the diet and body can allow for.

The classic **Milk Fever** is a deficiency in calcium. As this is required for the functioning of muscles, the cow is often wobbly, or down and unable to get up. She is recumbent, and looks all floppy, often with an S-bend in the neck. Cows are most susceptible to this at the time of calving and for a few days after; by this time the body has normally adapted through increasing the circulating levels of calcium.

* **Treatment:** Is the administration of calcium, either in the vein or via an oral drench. Prevention normally consists of supplementing the herd with magnesium from a month before calving, as this is an essential catalyst for the mobilization of calcium. Options include water treatment, pasture-dusting, boluses or drenching (Moremag is a drench that lasts for 10 days).

However, magnesium can be a primary deficiency in the form of **Grass Staggers**. These cows may also be recumbent, but they tend to be twitchy, often with tremors, but care needs to be exercised as their nervous system is excitable and they are prone to charging!

* **Treatment:** Is with administration of magnesium under the skin or as an oral drench. Intravenous magnesium may cause heart failure, so caution is advised to say the least! Affected animals may even start convulsing or paddling. Both Milk Fever and Grass Staggers can be fatal, and the longer the animal is down, the more muscle damage she suffers, and the lower her chances of recovery.

The other two components of metabolic issues are **low phosphorous** and **ketosis**.

Low phosphorous may complicate milk fever, and the distinguishing feature is that it initiates a haemolytic anaemia leading to redwater (although there are also other causes of red urine) **Ketosis** is when the cow does not have enough energy for the demands of lactation; the body produces ketones as a short term energy source, but as these levels rise they cause her to become slow and dopey. This can be a big problem for the herd as a sub-clinical picture, leading to reduced milk yield and a gateway to follow-up diseases & reduced fertility.

We can check the herd for ketosis about 2 weeks after calving with a cow-side test.

For details on supplementation & treatment, please see our website or one of our vet team.

In the spring time, prompt treatment and good nursing are essential.

AGRICULTURAL TRAINING

- ✓ Operator competency on tractors, 4WD utilities and motorbikes.
- ✓ Health and safety - how to check a machine prior to use.
- ✓ Chainsaw and high-risk machinery operation
- ✓ Machinery compliance — guiding farm operators to ensure equipment meets industry standards.

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Training done on your farm at a time that suits you



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Spring Product Deals

Kelvin has put together some early bird deals on these essential spring products.

- ◆ **Bomac metabolic products:** If you buy a box of 12, you will get one flexipack free! This includes the entire injectable range. The Bomac flexi pack **range** is proven and reliable. Get those cows up and milking. We stock the professional range of these products which includes a dose of B12 to boost appetite. Our recommended treatment for down cows after calving is a bag of the appropriate calcium in the vein followed by an oral dose once the cow can swallow well and is alert. This will help to stop these cows relapsing and keep them eating. Remember that products containing dextrose like Glucamax/Glucalposh should only be given in the vein. They are not absorbed well from under the skin.
- ◆ **Oral calcium products:** We highly recommend the use of oral calcium products in conjunction with under the skin treatments, as long as the cow has a good swallow reflex. Oral calcium products give much more calcium than putting a bag under the skin and it lasts much longer. We find it drastically reduces the number of milk fever cows that relapse. Most of these products have a burst of energy as well. We stock the following proven oral products:
- ◆ **Calform Plus:** Rapid acting calcium and a shot of energy that's easy to pour. The vets choice.
- ◆ **Oral Max:** 650ml bottle and 10 litre packs.
- ◆ **Starter plus 200 litre:** Our proven cost effective post calving start up drench. Keep them on their feet and eating through the transition period.
- ◆ **Drenching:** We recommend all heifers and lighter cows are drenched at calving. There is good research work using Eprinex, in NZ, to show on average heifers get in - calf 12.9 days earlier and cows give an extra 7.4 kg of milk solids during lactation if treated as they calve.
- ◆ **Eprinex pour-on:** Buy a 5L and get 10% while stocks last
- ◆ **Genesis pour-on:** Pay for a 5L and get a 5.5L

Spring Checklist

At Cambridge Vets we have a comprehensive range of what we think are the best products in the market place, at competitive prices and with professional advice to ensure you get through this season without a hitch.

Calving gear

- Ropes
- Chains
- Handles
- Disinfectant
- Lube
- Gloves
- Penicillin
- Oxytocin



Metabolics

- Calcium
- Magnesium
- Oral treatments
- Ketol
- MPG
- Starter Drench
- Rumenox



Mastitis Treatment

- Intramammary
- Injectable
- Bulk Magnesium
- Molasses
- Calcium
- Salt
- Eprinex/
Dectomax/
Genesis/Drench
- Teatspray
- Udder Cream
- Hoof gear



Calves

- Iodine spray
- Electrolytes
- Tags
- Feeders
- Shed disinfectant
- Teats

