



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

December 2021

## Merry Christmas from Cambridge Vets

### Clinic Opening Hours for Christmas and New Year 21/22

Monday 20th - Wednesday 22nd: 8am - 7pm  
 Thursday 23rd: 8am - 5pm  
 Christmas Eve - Friday 24th December: 8am - 5pm  
**Christmas Day - Saturday 25th December: CLOSED**  
**Boxing Day - Sunday 26 December: CLOSED**  
**Stat. Monday 27th December: CLOSED**  
**Stat. Tuesday 28th December: CLOSED**  
 Wednesday 29th December: 8am - 5pm  
 Thursday 30th December: 8am - 5pm

New Years Eve - Friday 31st December: 8am - 5pm  
**New Years Day - Saturday 1st December: CLOSED**  
**After New Years Day - Sunday 2nd January: CLOSED**  
**Stat. Monday 3rd January: CLOSED**  
**Stat. Tuesday 4th January: CLOSED**  
 Wednesday 5th January: 8am - 5pm  
 Thursday 6th January: 8am - 5pm  
 Friday 7th January: 8am - 5pm  
 Saturday 8th January: Back to normal operating hours

*If you have an emergency, please phone (07) 8277099 for assistance.*

#### **FACIAL ECZEMA** Dr. P Briston

I'm not going to write yet another article on FE; it's all available on our website [www.cambridgevets.co.nz](http://www.cambridgevets.co.nz).

It'll probably be a high risk period from February through to May again, depending on the weather. So keep an eye on our Farm Facebook page for spore counts, drop off pasture samples to check the risk level on your farm, and consider starting zinc supplementation in January.

#### **SCANNING**

Just a reminder we get quite booked up with scanning so please book in your herd asap. We recommend scanning at 6 weeks after the end of mating to confirm empties and lates. The easiest way is to record the results straight onto the tablet and upload to Minda, so make sure you are signed up to Infonet. Contact the office to help with sign up.

#### **LAME COW SEMINAR**



Finally, Covid restrictions lifted to allow CVS to host our much anticipated Lameness Workshop with Neil Chesterton. Knife skills were honed, legs were wrangled and high heels were applied, all with Neil's irrepressible passion and enthusiasm. A great day had by all. A big thank you to Kevin Monks and the farm staff for allowing the use of their wonderful facilities for the day.

#### **THAT'S RUBBISH!**

Just a reminder please do not throw your sharps (needles etc.) into the general rubbish. We have heard complaints from the council of refuse collectors getting injuries handling bags. Put them into a safe container and if needed we can then dispose of them for you in our medical waste.

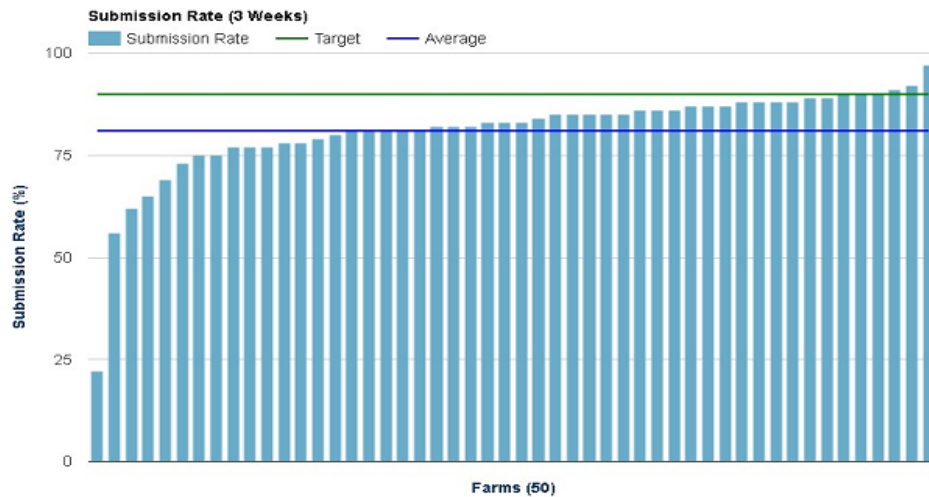


# Strep uberis shedding in faeces

As you know, *Strep uberis* is one of the major causes of clinical mastitis in NZ. These bacteria live inside the guts of cattle; Lacy-Hulbert reported a prevalence of 5.6% in cow faeces, which contaminates the environment and can lead to mastitis. A recent set of long term studies from the UK looked at the shedding of these bacteria in the faeces of dairy cows. They discovered that the contamination of the environment by cows was not due to a small number of "super shedders". Instead they noted that a large proportion of cows shed *Strep uberis*, but for a short period of time, so quite a random picture in the long term. This suggests that colonisation of the gut with *S. uberis* is transient but frequent and requires repopulation by repeated ingestion. Other authors have proposed that *Strep uberis* may become a chronic infection, so it's not a black and white picture. Detection levels were much lower for cows at pasture compared to housed cattle, which is good news for us. However confounding factors included the fact they were housed in the colder months, and the diet changed across the year. So dietary impact on gastro-intestinal carriage of the bacteria is an area for further investigation.

## REPRO UPDATE

Looking at the Submission Rate across our clients, the average was 81%, with a range from the 60s to the 90s. It was slightly below last year's average of 82%, but the spring was not so kind this year, with less sunshine and a grass pinch. The 3 week target is 90%, but accurate heat detection is more important than putting everything up blindly.



## Supernumerary teats

The extra teats we remove at disbudding – how common are they and can we breed them out?

A recent study of Chinese Holsteins reported a prevalence of 9.8% with an estimated heritability of 0.22. The risk of calves having extra teats increases as the dam gets older (different hormonal environment of the foetus), and was even noted to be seasonal with lower risk of SNT for calves born in uncomfortable weather (summer or winter)!

Interestingly, the prevalence varies with breed; 43% in German Simmentals and 15% estimated in Holsteins.

The heritability reported in literature varies enormously from 0.09 to 0.63. The Brown Swiss breed has reduced it from 31% in 2000 to 20% in 2017 through using a "clean udder" selection policy, so this is something our breeding companies are looking at too.

## Dry period mastitis: risk factors when using teat sealant alone (cow-level)

A recent study in the Waikato (by Scott McDougall and team) looked at dairy farms which had dry mastitis in cows who had received only teat sealant (ITS) at dry-off. 10 herds (5500 cows) were enrolled which had previously had >3% dry period mastitis in ITS cows. Over 2400 cows received ITS alone; 8% of these developed dry period mastitis.

- Cow aged >4 years had greater risk (presumably due to slower teat closure)
- Cows producing >10L had greater risk
- Cows dried off in the last week had greater risk
- Dry period mastitis resulted in a higher risk of elevated SCC in the next lactation
- Dry period mastitis resulted in a higher risk of clinical mastitis in the first 60 days of lactation

9/10 of these farms did not follow best practice recommendations for cow selection (SCC and mastitis records), dry-off management (e.g. volume, running to the paddock afterwards), or insertion process (hygiene, teat spraying, removing caps with teeth etc.) This does underline the importance of following recommendations for management and selection of cows at dry-off.

## Infection before dry off

A Waikato team including locals Scott McDougall and Jane Lacy-Hulbert have investigated Intramammary Infections (IMI) at the end of lactation. With our obligation to reduce and refine antimicrobial usage, selective dry cow therapy is a major strategy now, but how best to choose the cows to treat with antibiotic DCT? Cell count (SCC) can be affected not only by IMI but also by milk yield, stage of lactation, breed and herd-level of infection. What cut-point do we use? Do we shift this for different age groups / breeds / herds? They took milk samples from 2600 cows and checked for infection. The average prevalence of major pathogens was 7.2% but this varied between herds. The most recent SCC (composite), the maximum SCC from the season, and the average SCC were all equally good at discriminating infected from clean cows, with accuracies of around 80%.

From an individual cow perspective, taking into account age, BTSCC and history of mastitis improved the model fit, but did not improve the cut-off selection choice.

So just using the latest SCC for DCT selection is valid and sensible.



# WIN ME!!!

Automatic  
Entry



**Buy any drench and go  
into the draw to win a  
'Weber Baby Q'  
Every \$200 spend = 1x Entry  
Winner drawn on 23/12/21**

\* T and C's apply. Cambridge Veterinary Services 1980 Ltd. Promotion ends 23/12/21

## Welcome Natalie

Hello. My name is Natalie (the one with the glasses) and I am the new receptionist at Cambridge Vets.

Some of you have already met me and some of you I am yet to meet. You will find me in the clinic from Thursday to Monday. I am originally from England and moved to New Zealand in 2003. I am a fully qualified veterinary nurse and I live in Hamilton with my husband Riki, our 2 cats Ludo (pictured) and Buttercup and our deaf blue heeler, Princess Peach Ruler Of The Mushroom Kingdom. I am the only member of my family who works with animals. I have fond memories of being on a family friend's dairy farm in Otorohanga when we came to New Zealand on holiday before moving and when we first moved over. I loved helping out with the cleaning, milking and getting stuck into farm work wherever I could. I have always been an animal lover and although I am still learning all about 'largies' and products for them I am excited to get stuck in and help wherever I can.



"Who let Bessie substitute for Rudolf? I wasted half the night jumping over the moon!"

## Orange at Cambridge Vets



- One person per Consultation
- Please wear a Face covering
- 1-metre Social distancing
- Please Scan the QR Code
- Stay home if you are sick

*Thank you for your ongoing  
support and co-operation.*



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[www.cambridgevets.co.nz](http://www.cambridgevets.co.nz)