



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

Autumn 2022

Zoetis recycling scheme & Fonterra points

Environmental responsibility and sustainability is evermore a focus in farming, and we at Cambridge Vet are exploring ways we can help. Zoetis is offering a recycling service for their Teat Seal syringes and vaccine bottles, which we are signing up to.

Even better, this Product Stewardship Scheme (plastic waste management) will count towards the Environment Pillar of Fonterra's Cooperative Difference scheme!

The plastic will be recycled into FuturePost Fence posts, or reusable plant trays.

If you use Teat Seal or Ultravac vaccines on your farm, you can return the used (clean) syringes / bottles to the clinic in a suitable container. We will put them in the recycling scheme and issue a receipt for you to show Fonterra. Please note the syringes must be Teat Seal only – no dry cow, no other manufacturer, no rubbish or teat wipes.

Teat wipes are however compostable at home.

Reduce landfill plastic



RECYCLE

Teatseal™ tubes

ACVM No. A7294.

Zoetis Livestock Vaccine Recycling

1 Empty and return

- Bring your empty Zoetis vaccine packs back to the clinic to be recycled*.
- Stoppers and any string on the vaccine packs will need to be safely removed.
- Ask clinic staff for a receipt to use as part of your farm environmental plan.



Let's work together to do the right thing and avoid waste ending up in landfill.



Don't forget to remove the stopper with the cutters provided.

*Please note, due to the varying types of plastics used for different products, only the pictured Zoetis products are able to be recycled in this programme. As yet Bopriva®, Eweguard®, Gudair® and Scabigard® can not be recycled. We are working on it!

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zoetis



What is the Antibioqram?

A simple bulk milk test looks for Staph aureus and Strep uberis mastitis bacteria. They are then tested against a battery of antibiotics to assess sensitivity / resistance.

Why the antibioqram?

- Better choice of treatments for your herd.
- Monitoring and reducing antimicrobial resistance
- As part of Fonterra's cooperative Difference Program, Farm Source are offering \$100 vouchers for qualifying farmers who get a Dairy Antibioqram one before June.

DAIRY ANTIBIOGRAM

Teat Sealing

Using Internal Teat Sealant is a well-established method of reducing intra-mammary infections over the dry period. The advantages also extend into lactation, with reduced mastitis and cell count for the season. The strategy can be used in both maiden heifers, and in low cell count cows with no history of mastitis, with the advantage of it being a non-antibiotic preventative measure. Combination therapy with antibiotic dry cow is an option too. Whichever strategy you and your vet decided on, hygiene and cleanliness of syringe insertion is absolutely critical to prevent bacteria being pushed into the udder and the potential result of toxic mastitis.

Cambridge Vets offers several service to help you with this:

- A trained team of vets and technicians can come out and do the syringe insertion for you. We even have a Teat Seal trailer if the facilities are not ideal
- We can come out and train your staff in the shed, and if needed work with them for extra hands
- We can do a refresher talk in the clinic for those experienced and competent with the job
- We do get busy with this job over autumn, so please book us in advance to allow us to organize everything.



RVM / DCT / AHP

As the end of the milking season beckons, we will need to consult about milk quality and drying off strategies. This is also a great opportunity to discuss RVM usage and authorization, and to plan your Animal Health calendar. Not only are these annual requirements for paperwork compliance, it is a good opportunity to discuss sustainable options for animal health issues and medicine usage. Please book this in advance, make sure your vet has access to the data they need, and allow a bit of time!

FE and BMT Zinc

Facial Eczema has hit us quite hard again this summer, not helped by the availability of zinc being interrupted by Covid supply issues.

We have seen multiple clinical cases, especially in sheep, mostly when zinc supplementation has been late or interrupted. For many properties, zinc through the water is not sufficient to give protection, although every farm is different. Spore counts from your paddocks will give you an accurate risk assessment. The season often extends into May. Natural FE resistance has been a breeding aim of the sheep industry, and is something CRV is pursuing. In addition, management practices can reduce the risk such as grazing chicory / beet and supplementing with silage / maize.

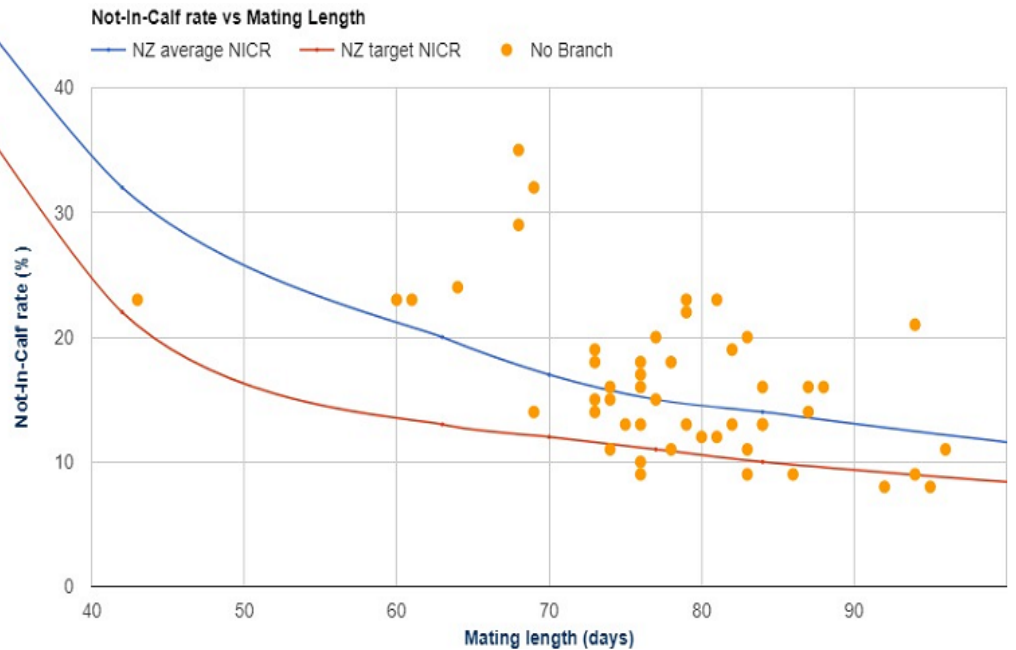
However, zinc supplementation is still a mainstay of protection, be it in feed, in water, drenched or by bolus. The levels in the cow have to be at protective levels to prevent Sporidesmin damaging the liver, and this can be checked in blood. FarmSource are offering a Bulk Milk ZincCheck. This can be a useful screening test, but there is a high degree of variability in readings and lower sensitivity than serum levels. So, if it reports Low zinc, then blood samples from a selection of cows will give a higher accuracy and the range of levels. The other risk is zinc poisoning, which can be disastrous with sick animals losing weight and scouring, so double check the administration rates.



Not-In-Calf vs Mating Length

Selected Clinic: All Clinics - Selected Farm: All Farms

Year: 2021



Scanning results and benchmarking from Infovet

Last Spring was quite hard, and the impression I got was this impacted on early mating, but most final results were pretty good.

The clinic farms average in calf rate at 6 weeks was 66%, which is close to last season's 67% but well below DairyNZ's target of 87%.

The submission rate (3 week) average was 79%, which was behind last season's 82% and well below the target of 90%.

The Not-In-Calf vs Mating Length graph is a very useful way to compare different farms; ask your vet to pinpoint your farm on this metric.

Repro success indicated by AnoGenital Difference (AGD)

Measuring the AGD (bum to vulva) in heifers can be a useful way of identifying a Freemartin. However, one recent study found that it also related well to predicting reproductive success. Interestingly it was more useful than the number of follicles in the ovaries! The

researchers measured the AGD at pregnancy scanning in the first lactation. A short AGD was <102mm. First calvers with a short AGD had a 20-day shorter calving to conception interval and PSM-conception interval. More work to look at younger animals may identify a practical, useful marker.

Improving Growth Rates in Calves

A British study looked at the impact of providing a Calf Health Plan to a farm on productivity and health outcomes for calves. 45 farms were enrolled, half of which received a health plan before calving, and measurements recorded for over 3500 calves. Results indicated that implementation of a calf health plan is likely to improve mean farm average daily gain (ADG) for pre-weaning calves on dairy farms, particularly male beef calves, with each additional intervention undertaken being associated with improvements in rates of ADG, diarrhoea and mortality.

So two points:

- We won't see an improvement if we are not measuring weights, recording illness etc.
- Going over a health plan with your vet can produce significant gains



Mitigating Green House Gases

I was reading this week's farming papers with interest as there seemed to be uncertainty over the role of trees on farms and the ETS; one report suggested pine would be excluded, another that established native should be included, and the Groundswell movement proposing an alternative strategy again. In an older paper in Journal of NZ Grasslands (2019), Leahy discusses the oncoming need to mitigate GHG emissions (methane and nitrogen oxide) in NZ farming. Some of the key options included:

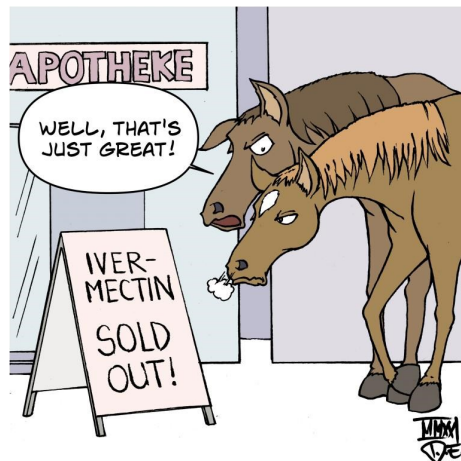
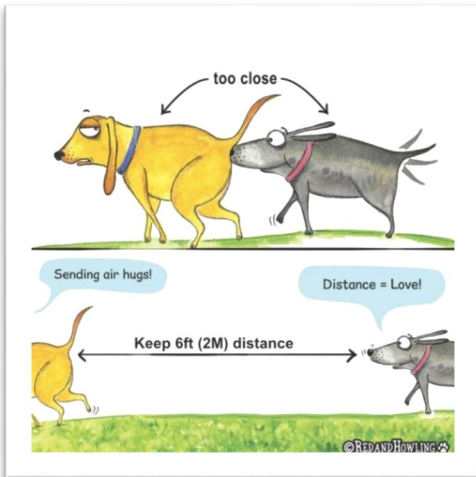
- increasing animal performance while reducing stocking rate, perhaps by reducing beef cow numbers by rearing more calves from the dairy industry
- Using "low emission feeds" such as fodder beet or grains could improve animal performance with less total feed needed to reach a level of production, e.g., kg milk solids or live weight gain.
- farms could move to less intensive systems but not increase stock numbers to compensate for reduced outputs.
- increased use of precision application and timing of fertiliser inputs.
- Urease inhibitors could also be more widely used but will have limited effect as most N₂O emissions come from urine patches.
- In the future, there may be rumen methane inhibitors, vaccination against rumen methanogens, low-emission animals bred, and nitrification inhibitors that inhibit the formation of nitrates in the soil and thus N₂O production.



COVID-19

Wow! Covid! Well, apart from delaying supplies, it is also taking out members of our staff as they isolate. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we do the best we can for you and your animals.

Thank you for your continued support during this time.



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