



treating all animals large and small

Winter 2022

IVE A FEELING THE GREENS ARE GOING TO BE SLOW TODAY!

Golf Day / Spring Seminar

Well, we tried but the golf was rained off in May. We continued with a meal and social gathering in the clubhouse, but unfortunately we then ended up catching Covid! As a result of this, and an ongoing flu season impacting on our staff and community, we will not be holding our Spring Seminar this year. Hopefully we will be back to normal in 2023!

Sadly we farewelled Dr. Ben Rooney last month as he shifted back to Tirau.

Fortunately we have Dr. Patrick Taylor joining us in August >>>

Milk Fever and Zeolite

Welcoming Patrick

Patrick grew up on a farm near Gordonton then gained his BVSc from Massey in 2015. After a few years working both in Canterbury and the UK he returned home to settle in Cambridge and work as a sole dairy vet 3 years ago. He loves



practical vetting, particularly calving cows and has a passion for efficient production systems and preventive health management. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with family, hockey, brewing beer, snowboarding and weather permitting, paragliding.

It has been interesting looking at the levels of magnesium in blood samples across different farms. By now we should be getting supplementary magnesium into the herds, either by dusting or via water. I recently attended a whole day of the Dairy Vets' conference in the exotic location of Claudelands. One of the most useful papers was presented by Katrina Roberts. Her team had looked into feeding synthetic zeolite for 3

weeks before calving. Five farms in the Waikato were used, which were predominantly pasture-based, with the zeolite given to springers daily, added to supplementary silage / maize / concentrate at 0.5kg per cow.

The results showed greater blood calcium levels 1 day after calving with reduced risk of milk fever (from 4.4% down to 1.2%) and reduced sub-clinical hypocalcaemia. Interestingly, the concentrations of magnesium and phosphate dropped. There is potential for using synthetic zeolite as part of transition management in NZ systems.



Image Courtesy of DairyNZ.co.nz



Jexfble Milking

DairyNZ and Lincoln University researchers presented a paper at conference looking at 3in2 and 10 in 7 milking routines.

They noted that, whilst OAD milking can have an impact on milk solid production, it was more attractive for staff and had benefits such as better condition score. Milking 3 times in 2 days has been proposed as an alternative option. They wanted to explore the benefits and costs of this, and to investigate the impact of milking interval as well as frequency.

Experiment 1: they had 4 herds to compare:

- 2 A D milking
- 3 in 2 all year
- 3 in 2 from December
- 3 in 2 from March

Courtesy of dreamstime com/fre

Results:

- For the period milked 3in2, there was negligible effect on fat, but a decrease in protein (8%), lactose (12%) and milk yield (10%).
- There was a positive effect on BCS (up 6% by dry off)
- This energy requirement for BCS gain matched that saved by reduced walking
- No differences in feed eaten or quality

So pasture management and feed allocation needs to be similar. The savings in time can be used for other jobs and staff retention. But cost-benefits will vary from farm to farm.

Experiment 2:

It was noted that a 12-18-18 hr interval still gave people long days ; how much flexibility is there in the interval between milkings? Can we milk at more sociable hours, bringing the afternoon and late morning milkings earlier, without much impact on production? They split a herd into 3 different routines in spring and in summer:

- 12-18-18
- 10-19-19
- 8-20-20

There was no statistical difference in MS/kg for the 3 intervals.

However, due to the small number of cows, they added in data for the 2AD and OAD herds.

- There was no negative impact on fat yield with longer milking intervals
 - There was a small decline in protein yield with longer intervals, e.g. 8-20-20 had a daily cost of 0.039 kgMS per cow compared to 12-18-18.
 - They also modelled milking 10-in-7 (weekdays 3-in-2 and OAD for weekends) where yield decreased 0.01-0.02 kgMS daily per cow.

They concluded the differences in production are likely to be negligible on a commercial farm with all the other variables in play, and using more attractive milking intervals may give other benefits such as time for other tasks and an attractive work schedule.

Product update: REFLEX, abamectin pour-ons now have a 35D Milk WH

Ministry of Primary Industries has now mandated a new 35-day milk withholding period will be applied to all single active abamectin pour-on products. This includes the Alleva brand, REFLEX Pour-on. No abamectin pour-on product should be used in lactating cattle. But Eprinex is still a nil milk WH pour-on and is available in-store.

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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

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



Metabolics

- O Calcium
- O Magnesium
- O Oral treatments
- O Keto Aid
- O MPG
- O Starter Drench
- O Rumenox



Mastitis Treatment

O Intramammary

O Bulk Magnesium

O Eprinex/Dectomax/Turbo/

O Injectable

General

O Molasses

O Calcium

Drench

O Teatspray

O Hoof gear

O Udder Cream

O Salt

- O Feeders
- O Shed disinfectant
- **O** Teats











Sheep and Parasite Management S 🖉 🥂 🏹 🏹 🖉 🎓

Image Courtesy of iStock - Free Images

Another good paper presented at the Claudelands Conference was on Drench Resistance in sheep. This is of renewed interest to me because I have seen some really high Faecal Egg counts in adult ewes, which we generally advise do not need drenching. The main thrust of the paper was that we need to be smarter with our parasite management, and have formal plans in place, rather than just relying on over-frequent drenching, as this only hastens the onset and risk of drench resistance. There is no product on the market that has no resistance seen somewhere in NZ, even the Triple combinations, and novel products.

The first thing the author noted was the need to keep sheep in good health and body condition; then they can cope with a degree of worm burden anyway. It is important to actually score the flock condition by hand, and preferentially feed the lower score ewes. Likewise, scan to identify multiples and feed to minimize the risk of ketosis in late pregnancy.

This all hinges on pasture management and stocking rate, so a proper feed budget is a must, hand-in-hand with pasture cover assessment.

Reducing the pasture worm burden can be achieved by removing the lambs by autumn, so ensure they are meeting liveweight targets for sale, or run the lambs away on paddocks shared with cattle.

Many farms drench too frequently; this can be reduced by doing Faecal Egg Counts. If the counts are low, delay drenching. Saves money and time too!

Efficacy of a drench type can be assessed by doing a Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test. Compare samples before and after drenching to check the egg count dropped by over 90%.

Finally, drenching individuals as needed rather than a mob. The concept of refugia allows for the dilution of any resistant parasites on farm by not drenching (not selecting for resistance in) the best 10% of lambs. Conversely, if there are asub-group of adult ewes who are not thriving, faecal egg counts will determine if they need drenching, rather than doing the whole mob.

Not all sheep are thin or scoury because of worms. We also see Facial Eczema affecting them (even with no visible skin lesions), trace element deficiencies, Johne's disease, dental issues, lameness, nutritional scours or a feed pinch. Most of these can be diagnosed fairly easily and cheaply with an exam or a blood / faecal test.

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