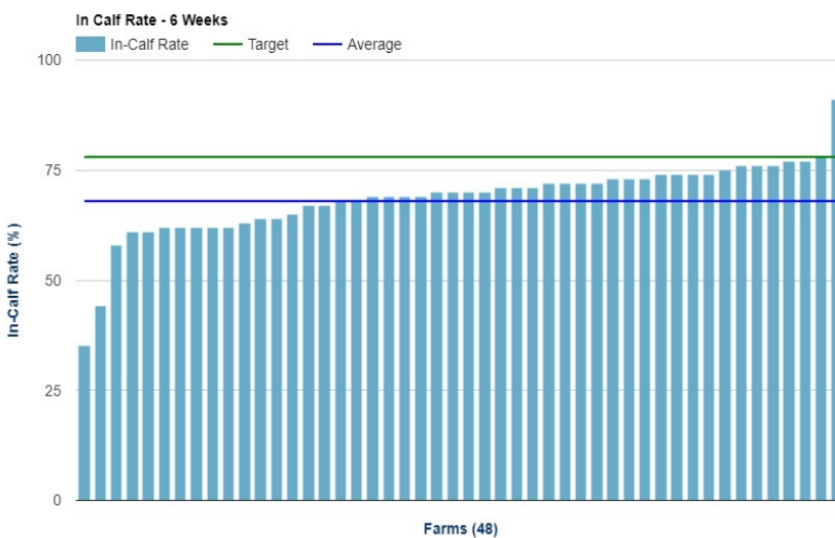


Welcome to your Farm Newsletter for Autumn of 2024!

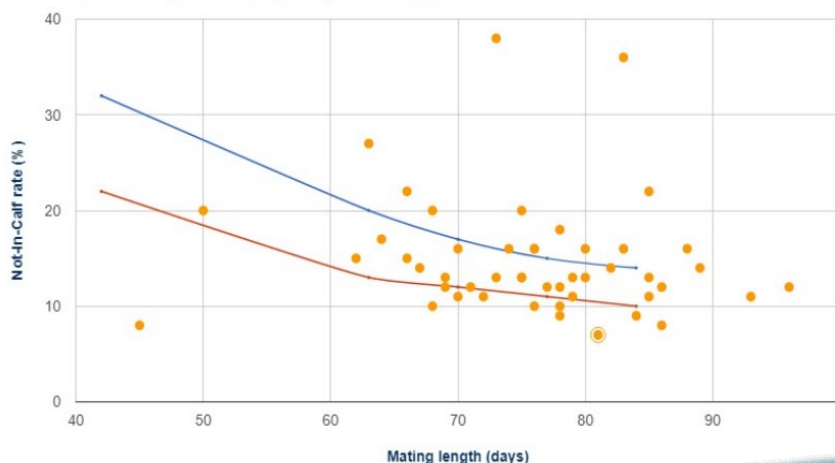
Repro Benchmarking

This years scanning saw a general improvement in repro outcomes:

- 68% in calf at 6 weeks average (c.f. 64% last year)
- 3 week submission rate average 80% (c.f. 76% last season)
- Empty rates varied enormously, but the average of 15% was better than last year's 18%



*Target rate supplied by DairyNZ



*Target and Average rates supplied by DairyNZ

Important Notes:



Easter Dates

29th March
- Good Friday: Closed
30th March
- Saturday: Open 9-12:30
31st March
- Sunday: Closed
1st April
- Easter Monday: Closed
2nd April
- Tuesday: Normal hours



Spore Counts

Please continue to bring in grass samples to monitor how your own paddocks are doing. Now is the time to start bollusing if you haven't already.

In clinic Spore Counts are \$10 each. We need at least 60grams of grass in each sample.



Farewell

We farewell our receptionist Natalie as she heads off to a new career closer to home. Renee will be our new friendly face joining the team soon.

Milk Cultures and Dry Off

Milk cultures can give great insight into a mastitis or cell count issue. Different bacteria spread via different ways, so identifying the bug can help identify the risk factors on farm.

In addition, this will tell you which treatments would be best, or indeed if antibiotics are even justified.

There are several ways of getting such useful information:

- In-Clinic Milk plates

The advantage to dropping off milk samples to us is we can culture them overnight and report back to you the next day. In addition, we can interpret the results, especially if unusual or multiple bacteria are identified.

- Mastatest

This is an on-farm system which uses cartridges to identify the bacteria species, and checks 3 antibiotics for sensitivity. Quick turn-around so you can wait for the results to see what treatment, if any, is needed. Your vet will receive a copy of the results automatically. It only identifies the common bacteria, not unusual ones, and there is a financial investment for the box and the cartridges.

- Antibigram

This is an automated lab test on your bulk milk. It looks for *Strep uberis* and *Staph aureus*, and then checks a large range of antimicrobials against them. A great no-hassle way of getting a snapshot to assess antimicrobial efficacy / resistance, which meets compliance requirements. Ordered through your vet as required.

Taking milk samples – it is frustrating and a waste of money if the milk is contaminated with dirt or skin bacteria. Make sure the sample is taken aseptically. The teat needs to be wiped multiple times with a teat wipe, the first strip discarded, and a small volume directed into the pottle. Fingers and teats should not come into contact with the pottle. Then identify the lid with cow number, date, quarter. Can be stored in the fridge or freezer.



DCT / Teat Sealing

It may seem to be a bit early to think about drying off, but there are a few reminders / changes we need to highlight: The prescription of dry cow and teat seal is a consultation process. If possible we will often try to do your RVM authorization and Animal Health / Welfare Plan at the same time.

Please remember:

- **Book in your consult in advance.**
- **Bring the relevant animal health data (and sign up to Infovet so we can access SCC), such as BTSCC, mastitis rates, and also mortality and lameness rates for the AHP.**
- **Cell count data is needed for specific prescription, so a herd test should be available.**
- **It is a requirement that all personnel inserting DCT / Teat Seal have appropriate training to avoid toxic mastitis developing. This will be discussed and needs signing off by each farm.**
- **We can provide training to your staff, or we can provide trained technicians to help with this.**
- **Phone in your order of tubes in advance of collection.**
- **Receptionists cannot dispense RVM products without a vet's prior authorization, please be kind to them.**

Infovet now has a great function where we can generate drying off date recommendations for each cow, automatically. It combines the scanning data and BCS data. So a great reason for getting us to BCS the herd after scanning them!



Dry Off Calendar



New 'Pacifica' leptospirosis strain | Protecting your Family and Farm

Leptospirosis (lepto) is a disease caused by bacteria that can be spread from animal to human, otherwise known as a zoonotic disease. The impact lepto can have on farm is devastating, with severe flu symptoms in humans and in some cases debilitating illness requiring hospitalisation. A recent survey conducted by Massey University showed that half of those affected were still experiencing symptoms a staggering 8 months after diagnosis.

Unfortunately, in recent years there have been cases of lepto in farmers and staff (including teat sealing technicians) working on vaccinated farms, many of which are thought to be due to a newly discovered strain of lepto within our dairy herds. This new strain, known as Pacifica, wasn't covered by the traditional dairy cattle lepto vaccines. Recent research suggests Pacifica could be present in almost three quarters of dairy herds nationwide.

A new vaccine, Lepto 4-Way™, has recently been developed in response to the emergence of Pacifica. The vaccine also contains the 3 strains (Hardjo, Pomona & Copenhageni) previously covered by your traditional vaccines. Upgrading to Lepto 4-Way™ will likely mean a change to your current lepto vaccination schedule for 2023/2024 - your vet will discuss this with you.

Leptospirosis is contracted most commonly through exposure to the urine of infected animals, either through direct contact or via contaminated water. The bacteria enter through cuts or grazes on our skin, or through the mucous membranes of our eyes, nose and mouth. There are different types of lepto, with cows often showing no clinical signs. This means that working with dairy cows can pose a significant risk for contracting lepto, so preventing exposure is vital.

While vaccination is an integral part of your lepto management plan, strict health and safety on farm remains paramount to protect you and your team. You should always stand clear of urinating cows, effluent spraying, cover up any cuts, and avoid eating, drinking or smoking/vaping in the pit. Rats and mice can carry other strains of lepto, so good pest control and avoiding possible contact with rodent urine is also important. Because lepto survives well in water, care should be taken around surface water and flooding after rain events - effluent ponds and spreaders can also be a risk. And because lepto can be treated with antibiotics you should always see a doctor as soon as possible if you suspect you have been infected.

A case of lepto could have a huge impact on your team at a time you can least afford it. Prevention is critical, so staff education and upgrading your vaccine to Lepto 4-Way™ means you have done all you can to ensure the health and safety of you, your family and anyone who works on your farm.



**ADVANCED
PROTECTION**
Lepto 4-way™

Facial Eczema

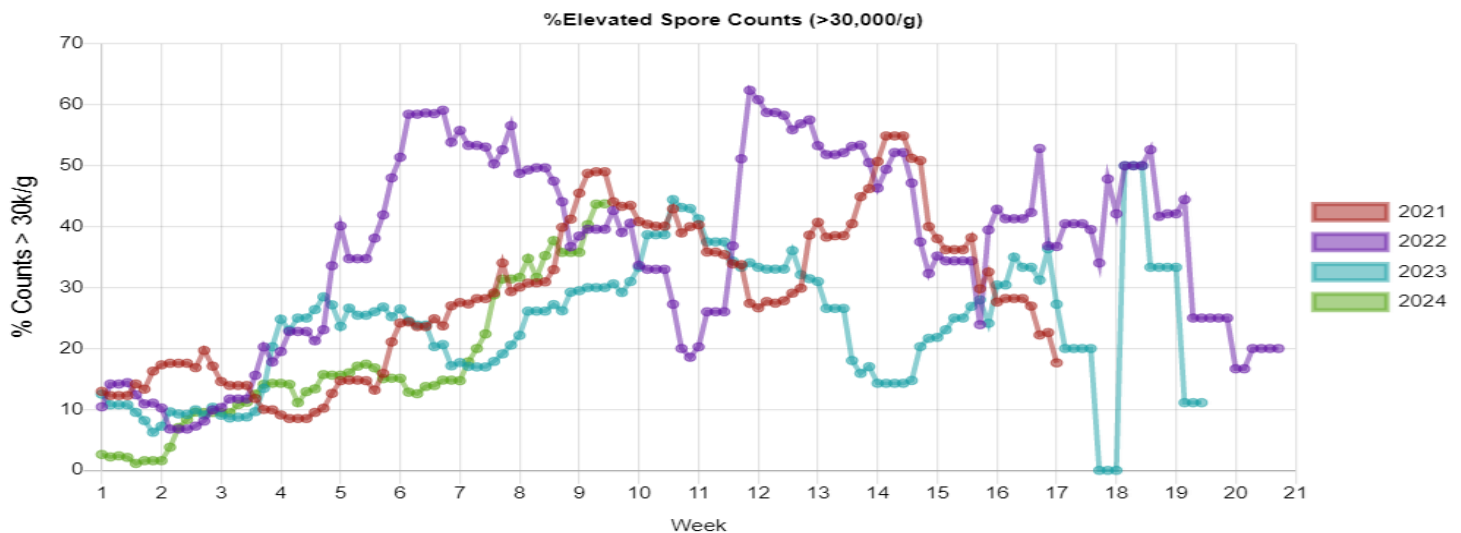
This year's spore counts have been surprisingly low, but with high challenges in spots. It may become a late-challenge season; if the autumn is warm and wet it will encourage spore growth in the litter from the summer's long grass.

This underlines the importance of getting spore counts done on your property, so that the zinc is neither started nor stopped too early.

Will your youngstock need a second bolus this month?

Have your herd got protective levels of zinc – consider getting some blood samples taken to check.

Dose rates for zinc oxide and zinc sulphate are available on our website www.cambridgevets.co.nz



Broken Shoulders Update

Research into the cause of spontaneous fractures in the humerus of first calvers is ongoing. Previously, nutrition in the first summer was identified as a critical point in the integrity of bone structure.

A survey conducted by Wehrle-Martinez *et al* had 68 questionnaires returned from both farms that had cases of humeral fracture, and control farms.

The two risk factors identified from the analysis were:

- Freisian Holstein-Jersey cross breed
- Calves being turned out to pasture a week early.
(Is this associated with a decreased milk / calcium intake for some individuals?)

It was cautioned with a small sample, and multiple factors having an impact on these fractures, these results would need more to assess their real-life importance or otherwise.

BVD Update

Research just published in the March NZVJ by Dunowska *et al* looks at the types of BVD virus in NZ from samples submitted to labs 2019-2022. Fragments of the genome were sequenced and genotyped: 144 were BVDV-1a and 5 were BVDV-1c.

This is relevant because vaccines that are effective against these types will be most useful. Our current BVD vaccines should cover all the New Zealand strains.



REVIEW: Clarkson's Farm

Having read the second book last year, I finally got round to subscribing to the first TV series, available on Amazon Prime. I was pleasantly surprised how entertaining I found it (a great way to cool down with a drink after a day scanning), although this will very much depend on your tolerance of Jeremy. He certainly plays up to his screen persona of "impatient buffoon", but he is obviously very smart underneath, and this conceit allows for the real characters to shine through. As a beginner, he has to enlist the help and advice of farmers, contractors, shepherds, farm advisors and even vets! The knowledge, expertise, skill and passion of these rural denizens is adroitly highlighted as they guide him through the various messes he makes. He has to learn to drive a tractor, the immutability of the seasons, the vagaries of sheep, the compliance restrictions on a working farm and the challenge of juggling the finances and staff. The camerawork allows for some beautiful shots of the gentle countryside, and a real rapport develops between him and particularly Kaleb. You get a good insight into the workload, pressure, stress, joys and laughs of an English farm. It certainly rang true with memories of my childhood, although Jeremy has the luxury of just throwing money at any problem! I can see why it won an award from the farming sector, it shows a real insight into farming, but with humour making it very accessible and entertaining.



Jersey Girls

Look out for a humorous insight into the lives and loves of the cows in a dairy herd. Showing at Riverlea Theatre. You may spot a local vet proving his credentials as an old bull!

Jersey Girls

farmed & dangerous
By Lynelle Kuriger



8-22 June 2024

Directed by Jayden Watkins



A Hamilton Playbox community theatre production
Tickets available online at www.ticket.co.nz or Riverlea Theatre, 83 Riverlea Road, Hamilton. See www.playbox.org.nz for details.



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