



Autumn NEWSLETTER

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Welcome to our 2026 Autumn Newsletter!

CAMBRIDGE VETS — INVITES YOU TO — FARM CLIENTS RACE NIGHT! AT CAMBRIDGE RACEWAY

THURSDAY 21ST MAY

EVENING START • FOOD • DRINKS • PRIZES!

RSVP ESSENTIAL - CONTACT CAMBRIDGE VETS TO BOOK!

Important Notes:

Thanks for being awesome!

We want to thank our farm clients by inviting you to an evening at the raceway.

We have reserved the Skyline lounge. There will be a buffet, drinks, betting voucher and most importantly, an opportunity to relax and socialize. It will be an evening event on **Thursday 21st May**.

There are a good number of places but still limited numbers for attendance. We are suggesting 2 tickets per farm at this stage, so please contact us if you want to reserve your spot:

078277099 or
info@cambridgevets.co.nz

Facebook

Join our online community and keep connected with everything happening at Cambridge Vets!

Follow our pages to stay up to date with:

- ✓ Topical animal health news
- ✓ Promotions & special offers
- ✓ Clinic updates
- ✓ Our latest newsletters

[Cambridge Vets Farm Services Page](#)

Repro Benchmarking

Our area did pretty well this year:

The in calf rate at 6 weeks was the same average as last year across farms: 68%

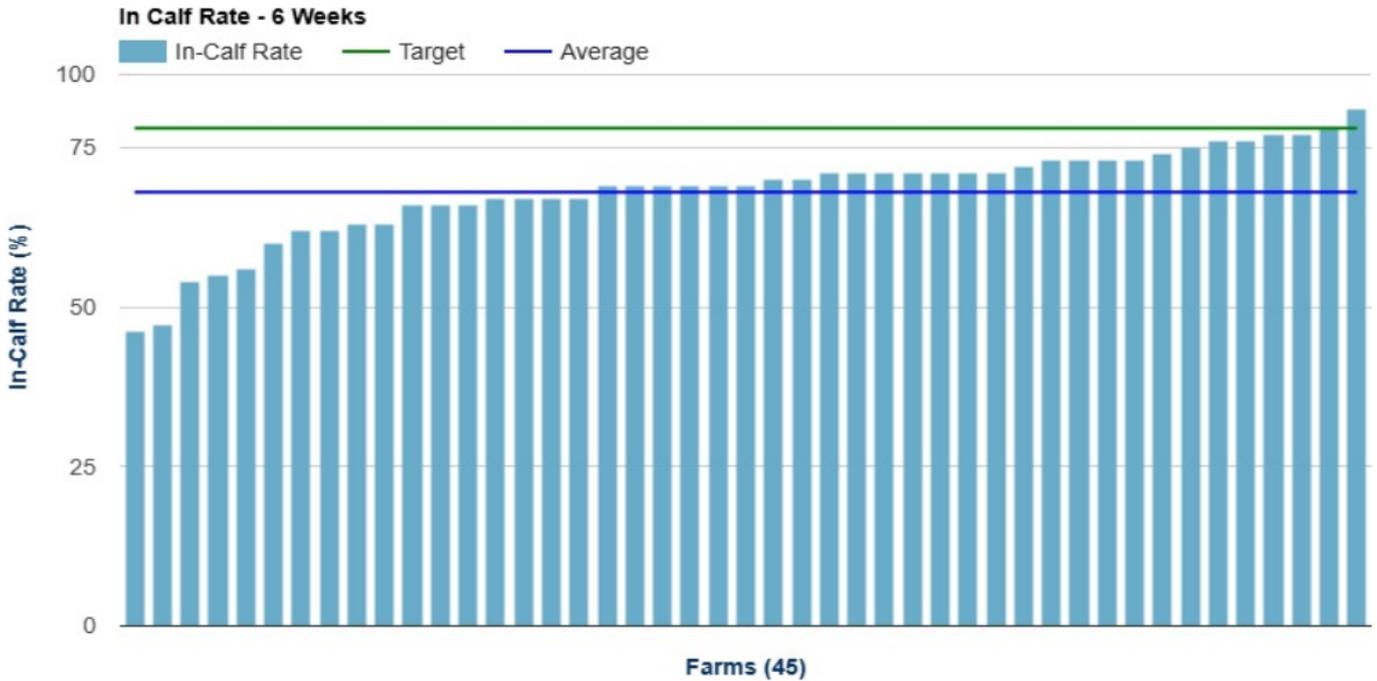
The Not in Calf rate was highly variable; where did your farm sit on the graph?

In Calf Rate

Selected Clinic: All Clinics - Selected Farm: All Farms



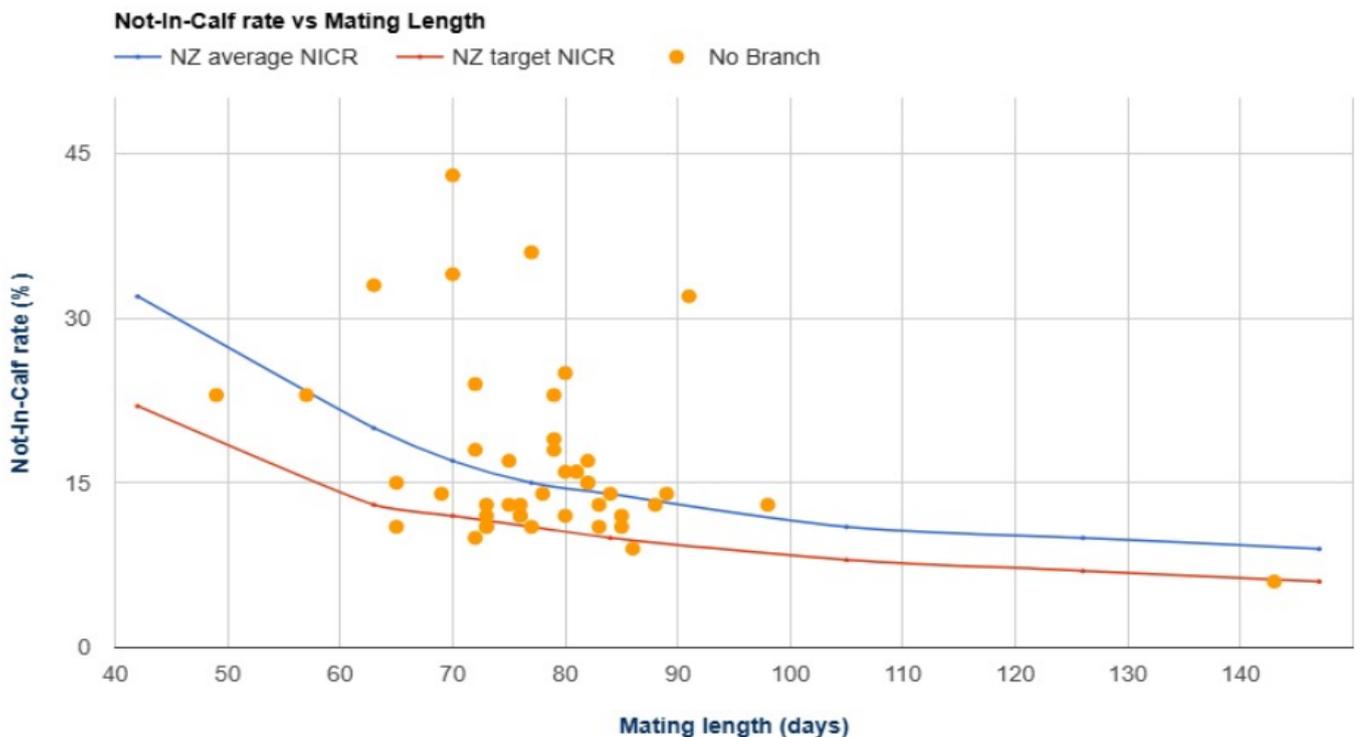
Year: 2025



*Target rate supplied by DairyNZ

Selected Clinic: All Clinics - Selected Farm: All Farms

Year: 2025



*Target and Average rates supplied by DairyNZ

Don't let Barbers Pole Gatecrash your Season

Barber's Pole can strike without warning - just as you're gearing up for tupping. With no scouring or dags to signal trouble, this blood-sucking parasite is the silent party crasher that can derail your mating plans.

You might notice sluggish, listless animals lagging behind the mob - or worse, sudden deaths. Blood loss leads to anaemia, visible as pale mucous membranes in ewes. In some cases, 'bottle jaw' may appear, especially in thinner animals. Traditionally, Barber's Pole has been a summer problem in the warmer North Island, particularly before tupping. But that's changing - this parasite is now being seen further south and persisting for longer periods.

Check before tupping to keep your mating season on track. Use faecal egg counts (FECs) and parasite identification to detect early outbreaks. This worm lays huge numbers of eggs, so FECs can rise rapidly - sometimes reaching several thousand eggs / gram in severe cases.

Watch for anaemia by checking the inside of lower eyelids; pale tissue can signal trouble. Focus testing on your 2-tooths and lighter ewes, as they're most at risk.

Stay calm - there are options. Base treatment decisions on FECs and parasite speciation, and avoid blanket drenching the whole mob. For long-term resilience, consider worm-resistant genetics; WormFEC breeders in Barber's Pole regions have selected sheep that can better withstand worm pressure.

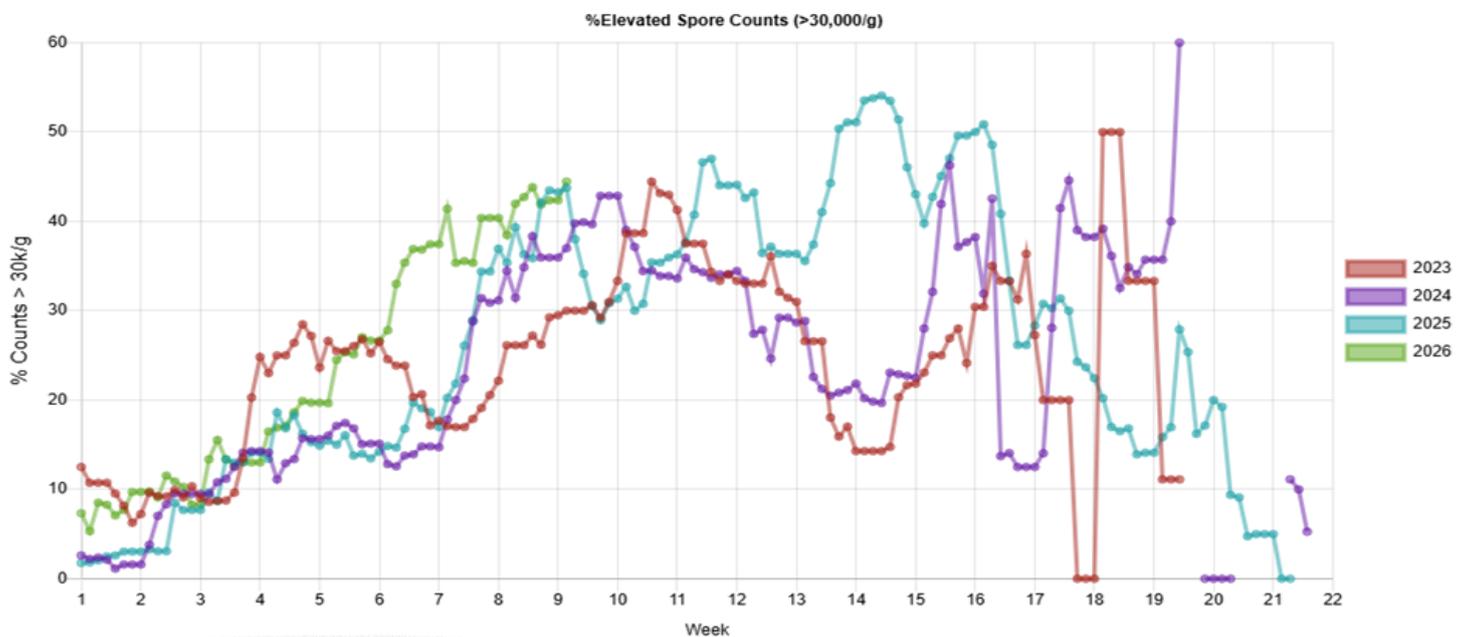
Don't delay - talk to your vet about checking for this threat before it crashes your tupping season.



Facial Eczema Report

Facial Eczema is still a risk even with the cold nights. The warm days are just waiting for a bit of rain to lift the spore counts again. Although our CVS spore counts have mostly been low to medium, the regional data shows a normal trend for January through March. We have still seen some clinical cases, in cows and sheep, which demonstrates how patchy the spore counts can be.

- Keep dropping off pasture samples and monitoring district spore counts
- We publish our clinic results on our Facebook page
- Keep supplementing with zinc until the risk is low
- Blood samples are an easy way of assessing if zinc levels are protective, and if there has been any liver damage



Crypto Vaccine and Calf Health

Many farmers already protect their calves against an outbreak of scours by vaccinating the herd against Rotavirus.

Now there is another tool to help you maximize your replacement herd:

Bovilis Cryptium is a vaccine new to NZ which has been utilized in the EU for a couple of seasons now.

It is a 2ml vaccine administered to the cows 3-12 weeks before calving. For the primary course, 2 shots are needed 4- 5 weeks apart, thereafter a single annual booster. This raises the antibody levels in the colostrum against crypto (it targets the gp40 protein present in all life stages of the cryptosporidium). Much like the rotavirus vaccines, its efficacy is dependent upon the calves getting a decent volume of colostrum in the first 16 hours of life. It can be given at the same time as Rotavec.

Its effects are to reduce the impact of cryptosporidiosis in young calves by:

- Reducing faecal score (less watery)
- Hastening recovery
- Reducing oocyst shedding (billions are shed in faeces of scouring calves)
- Lower mortality

Cryptosporidia are protozoal parasites, and are the 2nd most common cause of diarrhoea in young calves in NZ (47%), mostly affecting them between 1 and 4 weeks of age. This disease can be particularly devastating in combination with rotavirus.

If you have had crypto diagnosed as a cause of calf scours, give our clinic a ring to discuss the options with your vet.

In the meantime, here are some Calf Health Tips:

The greater the volume of colostrum and the longer the period, the better the health outcomes:

- Lower disease risk
- Better growth rate
- Better repro success
- Better lactation yield.

There have been recent studies in Germany which looked at increasing the volume and lengthening the period of feeding colostrum. Options to do this are giving an extra feed, topping up the volume, and using auto feeders or barrel feeders. The results were dramatic, showing less diarrhoea and health issues, reach-

ing puberty quicker and enhancing udder development so the effects extended well over the first lactation!

Quantity – aim for 10% of the calf's live weight

Quality - 1st colostrum is best, and the quicker the cow is milked the better. Brix testing is a quick cheap test to enable you to give the best Gold colostrum for the 1st feed. Every 1% increase in Brix reading reduces failure of passive transfer by 1/3. Having clean test buckets etc. is also vital as muck actually binds those essential antibodies!

Quickly - The first 16 hours are critical, when the calf guts can still absorb the large immunoglobulins. If the weather is bad, making the calf less likely to drink from Mum, collect calves twice a day.

Quantify – taking 12 blood samples in the 1st week to test for Total Protein will tell you if your colostrum management is spot-on or sporadic.

If you do get a scours outbreak, extra fluids with electrolytes are always the cornerstone treatment. And we are talking 10L per day of total intake!

Testing the faeces is critical for diagnosing if it is an infectious cause, and if so what treatment / prevention we should use. Remember, antibiotics do not work against viruses or crypto or nutritional scours!

Having clean, disinfected pens with new bedding is vital. Sick animals should be isolated; sometimes that means opening up a whole new barn (the implement shed) for new calves!

DCT / AWP / RVM

It is getting to the end of the season soon, when we will need to do a Milk Quality report for discussion / authorization of dry cow and teat seal. Please remember we will need to do this before we can prescribe product.

The regulations are getting stricter, with a whole set of requirements to reduce dry cow usage to a selective program.

It is also a good opportunity to renew the farm RVM for veterinary medicines, and to update your Animal Wellbeing Plan for Fonterra farms.

Please phone the clinic to book this in advance, and remember to bring the required health data.

