

Breeding Bulls

The health of the breeding bulls for both dairy and beef farmers are very important. Apart from the obvious concerns of lameness & reasonable body condition there are more serious diseases to consider. The production of fertile semen takes about 3 months so any illness that causes a significant fever will have a negative impact on semen quality for that period.



One of the most serious breeding diseases of bulls is BVD. The disease will be mild or even hidden in the bull but can cause abortions, late calves, & the birth of BVD carriers. The impact can be significant. We have had two beef farms which had large numbers of empty cows and multiple BVD carrier calves after a BVD carrier bull was used. The problem is easy to prevent. Always use BVD checked bulls (ask the seller or get your own bulls checked). Bulls only need to be checked once as you can only become a carrier before birth. The second requirement is to vaccinate all bulls before mating. Bulls need two shots a month apart in the first year and then a yearly booster.

Do not underestimate the effect of age and arthritis on a bull's performance. It is hard work for the bull to get up on his back legs for mating, and if it hurts he will give up. The old dominant sore bull is the worst case as he has a low mating rate but he keeps the younger bulls away.

Summary

- ◆ BVD check ALL bulls
- ◆ BVD vaccinate all bulls pre mating (twice in the first year)
- ◆ Cull older or lame bulls



Parvo Virus In Dogs

We recently had a young Doberman pup in the isolation ward for four days with parvo virus infection. This disease is still around & will cause serious life threatening disease in unvaccinated dogs. Typically it causes bloody diarrhoea & vomiting. The pup required intensive interventions (three days on IV fluids in this case) to treat. Fortunately the pup recovered and has gone home.

Parvo virus infection is largely preventable if pups are vaccinated at 6 weeks of age & then a month later. Regular boosters are then required to maintain the immunity. Apart from the risk of death with the acute vomiting & diarrhoea there is also a risk of heart damage that may not become apparent until later. The actual virus is very hardy in the environment so new infections can happen a long time later.

The cost of treating for Parvo can be high. We frequently generate invoices of greater than \$1000. Pet medical insurance is very worthwhile & removes a lot of the stress at the time of serious illness or injury as you are not constrained by money concerns and we can do the best for you & your animals.

Another recent unusual case was a dog that presented with "blood in the urine". It in fact was not blood but rather haemoglobin from blood breakdown in the body as a result of a splenic torsion. We were able to work this all out at 5 pm by the use of our in clinic laboratory analysis & ultrasound, and to do surgery that evening to remove the spleen by 7pm. (The spleen was so swollen it was almost 10 times its normal size). The dog went home the next day.



Calf Scours

Dairy calving has almost come to an end however we are still seeing cases of calf scours. Some of these are "milk scours" but some are due to rotavirus or cryptosporidium. Both of these diseases are hard to treat as antibiotics do not work that well. Treatment with electrolyte replacers and binders helps but do not always work. If the scours is due to rotavirus (a faecal sample test can confirm this) then the best prevention is to vaccinate the cows before calving with Rotavec vaccine. This boosts the antibody levels in the cow's colostrum increasing the protection that the calf has.



It is obviously too late for this season but if you are having trouble with calf scours then bring in a faecal sample so we can check if rotavirus is the problem and then set you up for next year.

Older calves may get coccidiosis. This can cause significant scours or may be subclinical. Either way it can have a significant negative impact on calf growth. A faecal sample is worth doing, though it does not always show. Treatment is one dose of Baycox drench.

Worms in calves also need to be controlled. **Do not use a single active pour-on for calves under a year of age.** It will not kill the Cooperia worms. Ideally use a combination drench. Oral drenches are generally cheaper than pour-ons and can be better if triple combinations are used. Because of the development of drench resistance in worms, worm drench control is a lot more complicated than it used to be. Get advice, don't just buy product.

Annual Farmers BBQ



25th November 2015 @ 5pm

Vets North Helensville

Please keep this date free & look out for your personal invite over the next fortnight



Farm Focus Evenings

Following on from our very well attended evening on BVD & Liver Fluke earlier in the year we are interested in any ideas or topics that you would like to know more about. Call in with suggestions or send us a text or e mail. If it is in our field of expertise we may present the information ourselves or we may get an outside speaker in.

Possible topics could include Calf Scours, Calf Drenching, Cow Lameness.



Why Would You Buy Drench from a Vet?

Well personally I would ask “why wouldn’t you!”. Just like antibiotics, to get the most out of a drench and to keep it working for the maximum time you need good advice, and we are the best to provide that for you. A cheap drench might save you a couple of dollars today but remember 30% of sheep production is due to effective parasite control. Once a drench family is lost it is lost for ever, and there are only four of them. Triple drench resistance on a farm is not unusual now and resistance to the forth family has already been recorded in New Zealand.

Parasite control is not about just drenching sheep it’s about an “integrated pest management strategy” that includes cross grazing, knowledge of all the parasites lifecycles, knowledge of the total farming plan as well as drench selection. Making the wrong choices won’t have a visible short term impact. A drench will still seem to be effective when it is only working at 80% The loss of production can not be measured on farm but is still there never the less. Only by the time a drench is only 60% effective will you start to see that it is not working.

Parasite control is too important to take the cheapest option.

If you purchase your drenches from us you also get my parasite control knowledge. I have a Masters in Parasitology and a keen interest in sheep and cattle farming. I also have a large amount of local knowledge having worked as a Vet in this area for 30 years. I meet with my sheep farmers yearly to discuss their parasite management plans. Using too much drench can be more dangerous in the long term than not drenching enough – its all about balance. We stock only Merial drenches as we believe them to be the best quality, well researched and developed in New Zealand. Value for money is more then just the cheapest.

So why buy your drench from a Vet? Because you get the best product and the best advice from people who know and care about your farming operation.



Available while stock lasts

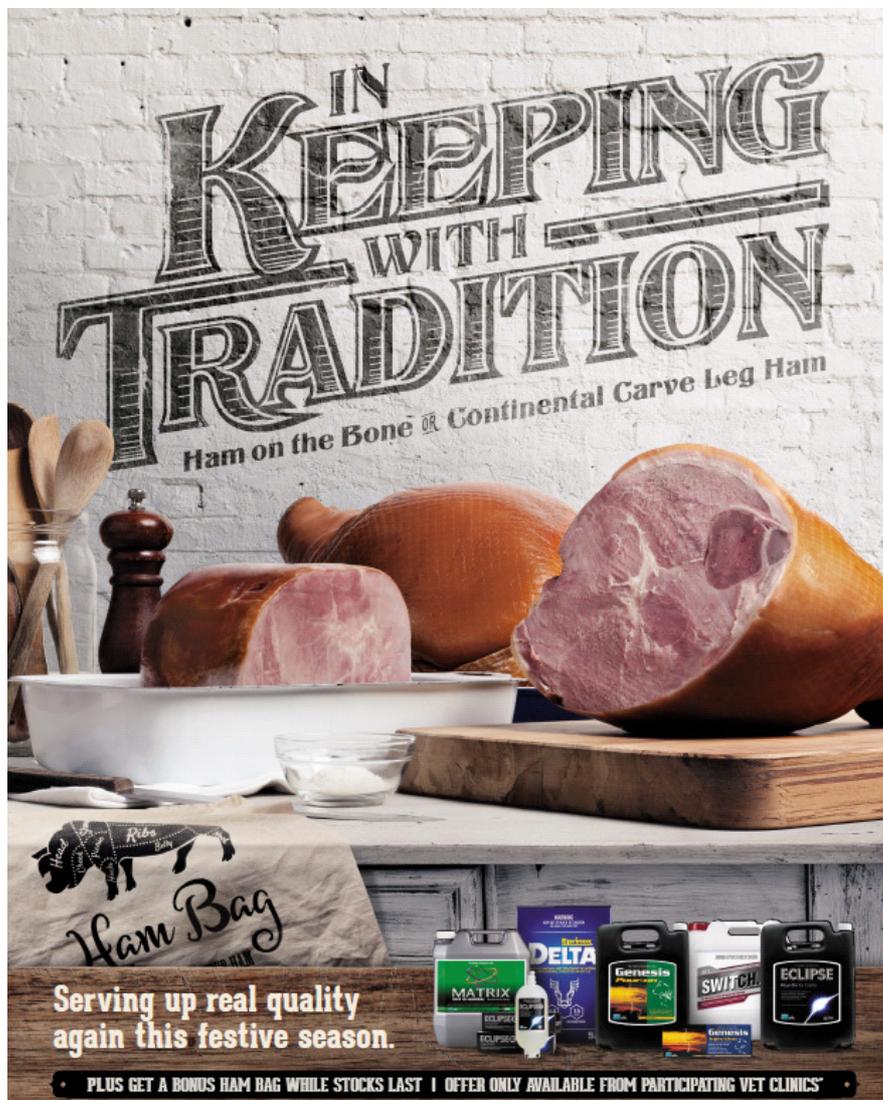
0800 VTS NTH

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Ham 2015 Qualifying Products

Product - 1/2 COB or Continental Carve	Qty
ARREST 20 Litre (buy 2)	2
ARREST Hi Mineral 20 Litre (buy 2)	2
ECLIPSE 2.5 Litre	1
ECLIPSE E Herdpack (4x500mls)	1
EPRINEX 20 Litre	1
EPRINEX Delta 5 Litre	1
EXODUS LAI (buy 4x 500ml)	4
EXODUS 1% (4x 500ml)	4
EXODUS Pour-On 5 Litre	2
EXODUS Pour-On 20 Litre	1
EXODUS SE 20 Litre	1
FIRST DRENCH Hi-Mineral 20 Litre	1
GENESIS Hi-Mineral 20 Litre	2
GENESIS Injection 4 x 500ml	4
GENESIS Injection B12 + Se 4 x 500ml	4
GENESIS Pour-On 5 Litre	1
GENESIS Pour-On 10 Litre	1
GENESIS Ultra Oral Hi-Min 20 Litre	1
GENESIS Ultra Pour On 5 Litre	1
IVER Matrix Tape Hi Mineral 10 Litre	1
IVER Matrix Tape Hi Mineral 20 Litre	1
IVOMEC PLUS - 500ml x4	4
MATRIX C Hi Min 10 Litre	1
MATRIX C Hi Min 20 Litre	1
MATRIX Mini Dose 10 Litre	1
MATRIX Mini Dose 20 Litre	1
MATRIX 20 Litre	1
MATRIX Hi-Mineral 20 Litre	1
MATRIX Hi-Mineral 50 Litre	1
MATRIX Tape Hi-Mineral 10 Litre	1
MATRIX Tape Hi-Mineral 20 Litre	1
SWITCH Fluke ¹⁰ 5 Litre	1
SWITCH Fluke ¹⁰ 10 Litre	1
SWITCH C Hi-Mineral 10L	1
SWITCH C Hi-Mineral 20L	1
SWITCH 20 Litre	1
SWITCH Hi-Mineral 20 Litre	1
SWITCH Hi-Mineral 50 Litre	1
TRIMOX 20L	1
Product - FULL COB	
ECLIPSE 5 Litre	1
ECLIPSE 10 Litre	1

Merial Christmas Ham Promotion

Promotion runs from 1st November to 22nd December 2015.

Added Bonus of a Free Ham Bag this year.

Available while stock lasts



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