

Large Animal Focus

September 2016

leptospirosis



Leptospirosis

Dairy farmers will be getting a contacted by the Clinic staff this month to arrange the first of the calf Leptospirosis vaccinations. If you have not already done it, we can combine this vaccination with 5 in 1 by using 7 in 1 vaccine.

Leptospirosis control is primarily to protect people from catching Lepto. It is important to aggressively vaccinate against Lepto in order to protect yourselves, your family and your workers, as well as contractors who come onto the farm. It will also keep OSH off your case. Despite many years of Lepto vaccination, the rate of human infection is increasing. This may be due to changes in farm management practices that are encouraging rats.

Herd Mineral Profiles

Now is the time to ensure the herd copper, selenium & iodine levels are correct before mating starts. Bloods & liver samples can be easily collected so supplementation can be given pre mating.

Low copper levels will impact on cow fertility. Over recent years, feeding palm kernel has elevated cow copper levels, however, with lower supplement levels liver copper levels need to be monitored.

Selenium is involved in conception rates, poor performance & growth. Selenium can be measured from either the liver or the blood. Other minerals that may need consideration are iodine & cobalt. The need to test for these should be discussed with Mark. Many farmers are concerned about liver biopsy but we have done many hundreds (some cows have been sampled monthly for 6 times with no ill effects) and it really is no drama to take liver samples. Liver samples are so much better than bloods for copper levels.

Flea & Tick Protection

Having the right set of tools for any farm job makes work all the more pleasurable & efficient. It's the same for working dogs. Bringing in a fractious mob goes much smoother when your dogs are concentrating on the task rather than stopping to scratch at fleas! With NIWA predicting record spring temperatures, flea populations are set to boom early, so it's time to get your dog team set up with some serious tools of their own to prevent fleas & ticks distracting them from work.

We recommend a Seresto® collar for working dogs as it is unique as flea treatments go:

- 8 months protection in one easy treatment – That's the longest treatment time of any flea and tick product available.
- Safe, convenient, odour-free and water-resistant.
- Imidacloprid kills fleas on contact – they don't have to bite to die - better for dog welfare.
- Kills 99-100% of fleas before they lay eggs and kills flea larvae in the animal's environment.
- Flumethrin ensures that ticks are repelled and killed, preventing them from attaching to dogs or cats.
- A predetermined break point and emergency release ratchet system allows the collar to loosen or break without injury.
- Proven in the field on sport and working dogs.

Right now and for a limited time only, there is a special Seresto® promotion in Clinic. Buy a Seresto collar and redeem for 6 months' worth of Drontal worming treatments FREE!

BUY 6, GET 1 FREE

Seresto Working Dog Club

Purchase 6 Seresto Collars and get 1 Free

This is a fantastic deal for your working dog team. Please contact Chelsea or Arlene at Vets North Helensville if you are interested in this offer.

protection from fleas and ticks



8 months of Flea & Tick Protection

0800 VTS NTH

AFTER HOURS: 0274 957 986

68 Access Road, Kumeu - P: 09 412 9016 - Kumeu@vetsnorth.co.nz
45 Commercial Road, Helensville - P: 09 420 8325 - Helensville@vetsnorth.co.nz

www.vetsnorth.co.nz



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Dairy Cow Fertility

The success of the mating of your herd will depend on two factors; the submission rate & the conception rate. You have the ability to influence both.

The background submission rate for your herd has already been set by such things as the Body Condition Score at drying off, the condition score at calving, the calving spread and the amount of feed you make available between calving and mating. You can get a handle on the situation by tail painting and recording heats. The main tool that you have to improve submission rate now is the use of CIDRs (controlled internal drug release), supported by increasing nutrition (feeding supplements) and once a day milking. Recording heats pre mating and injecting selected bulling cows can also increase the submission rate.

Conception rate is a function of mating timing (putting the right cows up for mating) and cow fertility. Again you can have an influence by identifying and treating cows with uterine infections. Metri-checking three weeks or more pre mating and treating cows with Metricure will increase conception rates.

One of the drivers of dairy cow profitability is "days in milk". A concentrated calving pattern is valuable and you can still influence next season's outcome. At the very least tail paint the herd NOW and see what is happening so you can make some decisions, even if the decision is to do nothing.

If you are contemplating using teaser bulls then they need to be vasectomised urgently so they have time to become infertile and to recover from the surgery.

Mark Anderson

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Farm Drop Off Service



Chelsea is running this delivery service every fortnight. Currently the South Head run is fortnightly and the Kaukapakapa run is as requested. If you are interested in this free service, the best method of contact is to phone the Helensville branch or email your requests to:

chelsear@vetsnorth.co.nz.

Calf Dehorning

We are currently very busy dehorning calves. The system that we use requires minimal input from you. We sedate the calves (usually in groups of about 30), inject local and then painlessly burn the horn stubs. This is a no stress, no pain option for both you and the calf.



SERVE UP QUALITY RESULTS AGAIN THIS SEASON WITH ECLIPSE*

Kiwi farmers know ECLIPSE delivers optimum results, and this spring will be no different, apart from this spring when you get home from a big day on the land there's a very good chance that somebody has dinner waiting for you courtesy of your new Sunbeam Stainless Electric Frypan*.

*ONLY WITH QUALIFYING PURCHASES, WHILE STOCKS LAST.
(STIR FRY NOT INCLUDED).

QUALIFYING PURCHASES: ECLIPSE Pour-On 5L, ECLIPSE Injection 5L, PROMO PACK, SPRINKLE 5L

