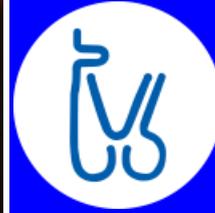




TOKOROA & DISTRICTS
VETERINARY SERVICES

TAUPO
VETERINARY
CENTRE

March 2018



Summer Sunset over Lake Taupo 2018

In This Issue

TOKOROA CLINIC

Ashworth Street
PO Box 182

Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 5:30 pm
Sat 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

07 886 6119 (24 hours)

TokRecep@tokvets.co.nz

TAUPO CLINIC

3 Oruanui Street
PO Box 637

Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 5:30 pm
Sat 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

07 378 5433 (24 hours)

TpoRecep@taupovets.co.nz

WHAKAMARU CLINIC

Tihoi Road

Mon – Fri
8:30 am – 4:30 pm

07 882 8094 (24 hours)

WhakaRecep@tokvets.co.nz

The first day of Autumn (sadly) is here, with cooler nights and days helping us all sleep a bit better. No doubt a few more sneaky hot days will appear over March. Enjoy the last of those BBQs!

We have seen spore counts jump over February, especially in Tokoroa, Whakamaru and Mangakino. For all areas we have monitor farms, counts are now over the risk level of 20,000, indicating preventative zinc treatment should have been started. Remember it is important to blood test your herd 7-10days after beginning treatment to ensure therapeutic levels have been reached. Even as the weather cools, don't be tempted to stop until spore counts are consistently below the risk level.

Your herd leptos is now due! There should be no more than a 15month gap between herd and calf/heifer vaccinations to maintain efficacy.

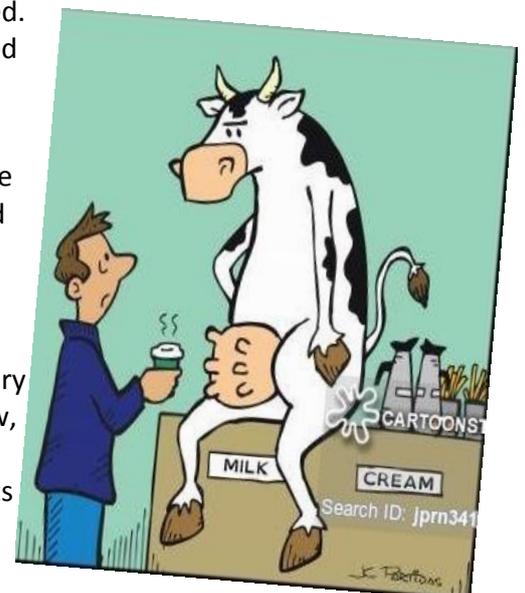
Milk quality consults will be beginning soon....hard to believe it's already time to dry off again! To get the most out of the review, please be prepared to fill out an MQC form and bring along your recent herd test results plus treatment/mastitis records for the season.

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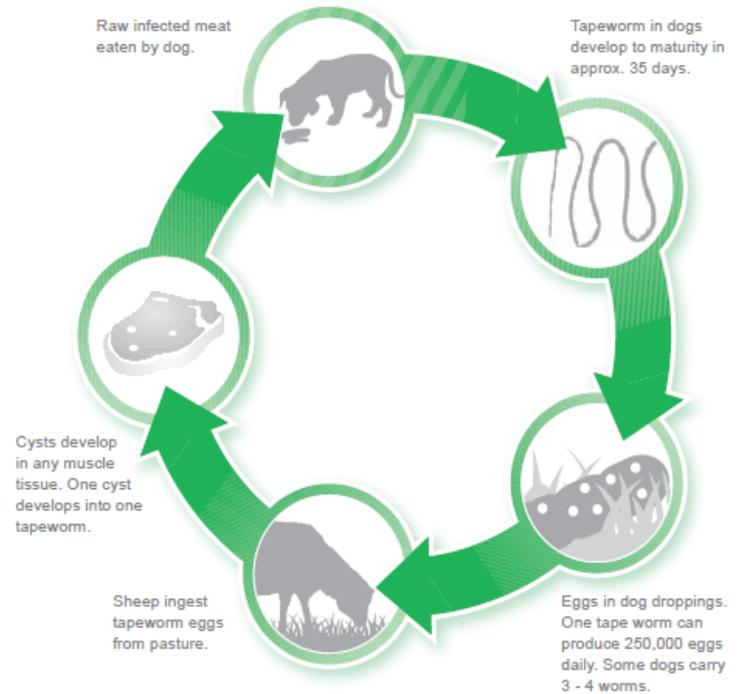
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Sheep Measles blow out

Many of you farming sheep/beef will have received the update from Ovis Management regarding the increased sheep measles prevalence in the Gisborne area last year. This is a timely reminder to not let your sheep measles parasite management plan slip!

The lifecycle for this tapeworm is only 35 days. Sheep ingest tapeworm eggs from pasture, which develop into larvae and migrate into the muscle causing the characteristic “cyst” lesions. If dogs eat the infected muscle/meat, the tapeworm larvae will then develop into mature tapeworms inside the dogs intestines and begin to produce more eggs to be shed onto pasture.



Control

The most effective and economic method is to treat ALL dogs on the property (including pet dogs AND any visitors for hunting etc) with a worm product containing the active ingredient “Praziquantel” **every month** in order to break the 35 day cycle and every 3months with an Allwormer product to kill other non-tapeworm parasites.

Safe feeding of homekill

The Ovis Management website contains detailed instructions on sheep meat treatment, but to summarise – freezing and cooking/boiling are needed to destroy the larval cysts.

The cutting up of all sheep or goat meat should be carried out in a dog proof area, regardless of whether the meat was bought or home killed or if it is used for dog food or human consumption. The dog proofing must prevent dogs gaining access to waste or offcuts.

See www.sheepmeasles.co.nz for more information

Flippin Flies



It only takes 12hrs for an animal to become struck...The fly season in the North Island is approx. October – May, the same conditions that promote facial eczema spore growth also encourage fly reproduction. Prevention is ALWAYS better than cure.

Prevention: shear (improves dip penetration), crutch and dag sheep (even pets), maintain good parasite control to prevent diarrhoea, monitor animals with wounds/abscesses/bad mastitis/facial eczema damage to skin. Dispose of dead stock or pests quickly and appropriately to deter flies. Keep stock out of high fly challenge areas – eg boggy, shaded paddocks. Products containing IGR (insect growth regulator) are the best and have low levels of recorded resistance, but need to be applied before risk period. Give us a call and we can help pick the right product for your farm, whether 5 animals or 5000.

6 week in-calf-rates

It's March and early-aged pregnancy testing information is at your fingertips. The benchmarking graph below shows where our farms are sitting in comparison to the InCalf 6week in-calf-rate of 78% (considered the upper quartile within NZ dairy farming). The average is currently sitting at 67%, up from 66% for the 2016/2017 season. If you want to know where you sit on this graph, give us a call to find out! If you aren't happy with your herds repro performance, then it's time to discuss with us what your options are with an InCalf consult.

Pregnancy test results plus recent herd testing information can also help you plan the future of your herd and guide strategic culling. Strategic culling now can help you manage feed demand, milk quality, body condition score and next year's calving pattern. At the end of the day (and season), it's not just about productivity, but profitability. So what animals should be considered for culling?

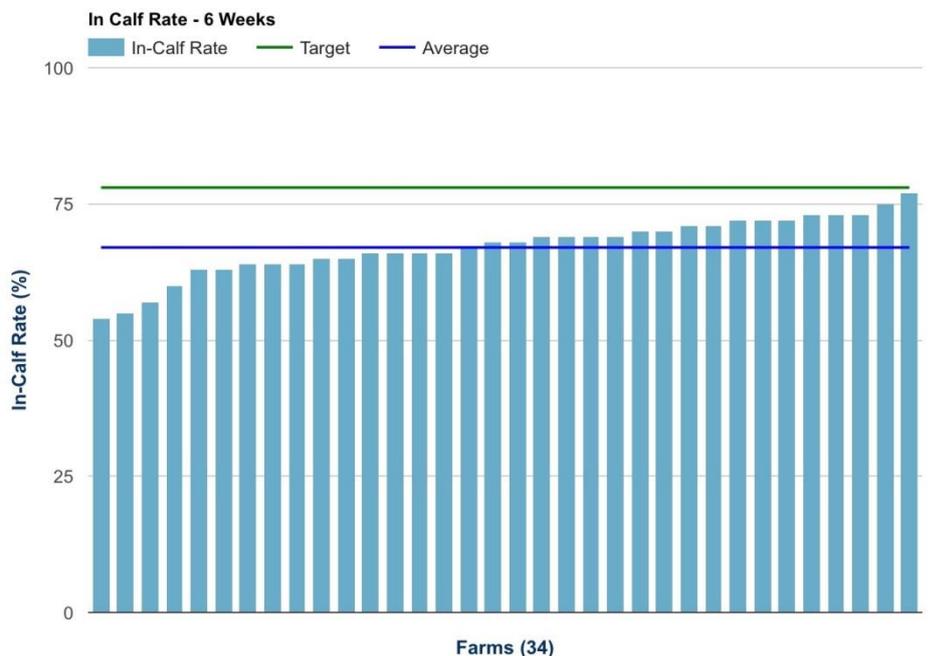
On the MINDA milk 'Best and Worst' graph you can see all the key information in one handy place, if you've got sufficient pregnancy testing information recorded.

- **Empties:** The obvious first choice is your empty cows – get rid of them. If you're going to carry any empties over then make sure they're being kept for the right reasons. They should be outstanding cows that have a very good reason as to why they're not pregnant.

What you do next will depend on what you're trying to achieve. To be successful in any goal - be it increasing the genetic merit of your herd, lifting cow numbers, or dealing with SCC - the availability of good information is paramount. If you herd test 3-4 times a year then your herd's indices will be reliable and a fantastic tool to identify poor contributors.

- **Genetics:** PW and LW will point you to the most efficient animals in your herd. Any girls with negative indices are eating your feed, but making you less money. Is it time for them to retire?
- **Somatic cell count:** If your herd struggles to sit below the SCC mark, then target the cows with high SCC in your herd test results, even if they aren't clinical cases.
- **Late Calvers:** Calving pattern is a problem for many herds; late-calving cows struggle to get pregnant simply because they run out of time. These girls can be good candidates for the cull list, especially if they are old, high cell count or low producers. They almost always have the lowest 6week in-calf rates and highest not-in-calf rates (check the "Pregnancy by Calving Pattern" section of MINDA Reproduction to see the impact of calving pattern on your herd's reproductive performance).

Among other things culling decisions help you manage feed to make sure your cows hit those critical Body Condition Score (BCS) targets at calving next year. Reaching BCS targets at calving is one of the biggest drivers of production and reproduction next season. We're happy to help you out planning ahead for success, just give the clinic a call to discuss options.



Change is a coming

They say “if you can’t beat em, join em”, but when it comes to dry cow therapy, old habits can be hard to break! Our profession is always working on ways to remain sustainable and forward thinking, not just to meet consumer expectations, but also to provide responsible and medically sound care to animals. In keeping with our proactive attitude towards responsible antibiotic use, the New Zealand Veterinary Association has set the goal that by 2020, dry cow therapy will only be used to treat existing intramammary infections and no longer as a whole herd preventative. Encouraging the use of teatseal and a requirement for farms to complete annual milk quality consults has helped prepare us for this, but we can do better!

Teatseal

Teatsealing your heifers to decrease the amount of mastitis in the first two weeks post calving is a no brainer. Not only does this decrease the cost of antibiotics and time out-of-vat for you in the upcoming season, but these heifers have been shown to have a lower SCC over their lifetime than heifers that are not teatsealed – why say no to that?

Teatsealing is not just for heifers, in cows with a known SCC of less than 150,000 (heifers 120,000) across the season, as well as no clinical cases of mastitis, teatseal alone can be used in the dry period to prevent any new infections. Teatseal can also be used with dry cow in animals with pre-existing mastitis to both treat and prevent infection.

It's always better to be proactive than reactive

We have qualified Advanced Mastitis advisors who can talk you through robust management measures to help reduce your incidence of subclinical and clinical mastitis. The use of mastitis consultancy services will become increasingly important as we move towards our 2020 goal and will save you some serious coin in the long run! We encourage you to engage with your veterinarian in discussing how your farm will help us meet that 2020 goal. Will you accept the challenge!?

We had to repeat this beauty from last year!

A proposition

Lucy was sitting at a bar enjoying an after-work cocktail with her girlfriends when a tall, exceptionally handsome, extremely sexy man entered. He was so striking that Lucy could not take her eyes off him.

This seasoned yet playful heartthrob noticed her overly attentive stare and walked directly toward her. Before she could offer her apologies for staring so rudely, he leaned over and whispered to her, “I’ll do anything, absolutely anything, that you want me to do, for twenty dollars, on one condition...”

Flabbergasted but intrigued, Lucy asked what the condition was. The man replied, “You have to tell me what you want me to do in just four words.”

Lucy considered his proposition for a moment, and then slowly removed a \$20 bill from her purse, which she pressed into the man’s hand along with her address. She looked deeply and passionately into his eyes, barely concealing her anticipation and excitement, and slowly and meaningfully said... “Clean my teatseal trailer.”