VETTALES

Te Puke Veterinary Centre Newsletter
JUNE 2015

NEWS BRIEFS

Hello everyone and a big welcome to those new to the area.

Facial Eczema

We said it last year but the autumn just been was probably the worst FE season for 10 years. It started off earlier than normal (early February) and continued through to May, with consistently high counts all the way along. Thankfully reasonable pasture length reduced spore intake in later autumn.

Zinc treatment and pasture spraying with fungicide worked well for the most part, despite huge counts at times. Zinc treated water was as usual the method found most wanting. Dry stock simply do not drink enough water to be protected and even in milking cows at least a third of the cows do not get adequate zinc. Those using water treatment should consider also supplementing feed with zinc oxide or pasture spraying as well.

For those caught out, things that help include quality feeding, vitamin B12 injections and attention to all other health matters including worms and trace elements.

Theileria

We have seen a few cases this Autumn. Spring is a high risk time so we expect to see more then.

New Staff

If you have a manager or worker who would like to receive “Vettales” please let us know and we will make sure they get a copy. Also let Elena know their phone and cell phone numbers so that we can contact them if we need to.

Nitrate Poisoning

Warning - this is the time of year we see sudden death in cattle due to Nitrate poisoning. Test crops and new grass (especially if nitrogen boosted). For most accurate results take sample first thing & drop in to clinic before 9am. See article later in newsletter.

Te Puke Veterinary Service Inc AGM

Wednesday 24th June, 7.30 p.m.
at Te Puke Golf Club
Supper and refreshments provided
Guest Speaker after AGM

Congratulations to the Autumn Promotions winners:

Face-Guard Weber BBQs
⇒ Robert and Linda Linton
⇒ Craig and Pip Garrett

Eclipse Pour-on
⇒ Kirsten Addison from Adline Transport

Entries to: Kelly Shaw
Phone: 533 2417
Mob: 027 4386135

Entries close 14th June

Squash Tournament
Wed 17th to Fri 19th June

Divisions for non-players
Games start early afternoon
Meals Friday night
Spot Prizes

Supper and refreshments provided

Pip Garrett receiving her Weber BBQ from Dan
**Scabby Mouth**

Last year one of the scabby mouth vaccines (Scabine) had some reduced effectiveness issues with two of its batches. Some flocks were quite badly affected with widespread scabby mouth. Where it was possible the company involved (MSD) paid for lambs to be revaccinated. However this was often too late. **What the issue did show is how severe and production limiting scabby mouth can be when lambs are left unprotected.**

Following on from this MSD has announced that Scabine will not be available this season as they continue to investigate what went wrong. We will have available instead two alternatives:

- **Phenax Classic**
  - Similar administration as Scabine i.e. 2 right angle scratches of 2.5cm through the middle of the droplet.
  - 150 dose applicators

- **Scabigard**
  - Purpose-designed Ezi-Grip applicator for easy use.
  - Accurate set dose,
  - One 4-5cm scratch
  - 250 doses

As with all scabby mouth vaccines technique is critical. Scratching must be done carefully so that the skin is broken but not so deeply that the full thickness of the skin is cut or bleeding occurs. Ten to twenty lambs should be checked 1-2 weeks after vaccination to ensure vaccine has taken. The vaccination line(s) should be raised and whitish surrounded by red inflammation.

The reaction on the lamb on the left is satisfactory, the one on the right is not. Research suggests an average take of 80% is to be expected.

Please ring your orders through as soon as possible.

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**Bionic Hi Mineral**

- Long acting capsule (100 days)
- Abamectin & Albendazole simultaneously released providing high effectiveness and less risk of resistance
- Contains Cobalt & Selenium
- Trials show that a ewe treated can rear an additional 3.8kg of lambs
- $3.64 each inc GST, Extended credit - pay December

**Eweguard**

- Convenience of worm control and vaccination
- Moxidectin provides 35 days persistent activity against Ostertagia and Haemonchus and also control of nasal bot.
- Protection against clostridial diseases and cheesy gland.
- Available with or without selenium and vitamin B12

**Dectomax injection**

- Medium acting control for ewes pre-lamb or at docking
- Shorter sub-lethal tail than Moxidectin injectables / drenches, so less risk of resistance. Cost effective in combo with 5 in 1.

**Oral Drench** at docking

- Less risk of resistance than long acting products and would appear to offer some long term benefits in terms of lamb growth and wool weights. However by docking, well fed healthy ewes should be immune to worms so drench effect can be variable and factors such as climate, lambing date and nutrition need to be considered.
- Matrix Hi-Min Triple combination best to use if worm resistance status unknown.

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**BIONIC WINTER PROMOTION**

**SEE WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN MISSING**

WITH UNRIVALLED RESULTS FOR 100 DAYS IT REALLY IS TIME TO SEE WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN MISSING. NOW YOU’LL SEE A WHOLE LOT CLEARER WITH THIS POWERFUL “LIGHTFORCE SPOTLIGHT”

Purchase 2500 BIONIC capsules and receive this LIGHTFORCE 100W Halogen Spotlight worth $259.

Or

Special Te Puke Vet Centre draw

Purchase any of the following:

- **Matrix Hi-Min 5L, 10L & 20L**
- **Exodus LAI 500ml**
- **BIONIC capsules**

go in to the draw for a

LIGHTFORCE 100W Halogen Spotlight

Ends 31 August 2015

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**Sheep Reminders**

- Trace element checks
- Pre-lamb 5 in 1 vaccination
- Check for abortions and take samples if a problem
- Prepare mobs to minimise Sleepy sickness & Bearings
- Pre-lamb drench (capsules) some or all of the mob
Pasture Nitrate Poisoning

The warm moist conditions of late have meant that pastures and crops have taken off. This can result in high nitrate levels, especially so if nitrogen has been applied. Last week we had a case where 13 cows died from nitrate poisoning after eating pasture under sown with annual ryegrass and having had DAP applied 3 weeks previously. When tested, the pasture showed a nitrate level of 2%. Anything over 1% can be toxic.

Rapidly growing ryegrass has the potential to uptake nitrates to a dangerous level. This is especially so following a relatively dry period and following nitrogen application. Sunlight helps dissipate nitrites but when a period of warm sunny weather is followed by a few cloudy or wet days then nitrate levels can very quickly become fatal.

If hungry stock eat enough toxic material quick enough, the nitrites are not able to be fully broken down and nitrite builds up. Nitrite is then absorbed into the blood stream and blocks the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood, causing chemical suffocation. Nitrate itself can also cause gut irritation.

Affected cows can die suddenly (within 1-4 hours) or up to 24 hours following ingestion. Other signs can include salivation, colic, diarrhoea, weakness, staggering, severe breathing problems, convulsions and collapse. Abortion may also occur due to lack of oxygen and stress.

If symptoms are seen, the herd should be immediately removed from the paddock and sick cows urgently attended to by a Vet. Treatment consists of intravenous methylene blue injections. Blood goes a chocolate brown colour in nitrate poisoning and this can be checked before the methylene blue is injected.

**Fast growing nitrogen boosted pasture and crops should be tested prior to grazing.** The sample needs to be at the clinic before 8.30am to get a same-day result. Alternatively nitrate kits can be purchased for on-farm analysis.

Prevention of nitrate poisoning is by not feeding toxic feed. For marginal pasture/crops there are some strategies that will help reduce the risk:

- Feed animals an alternative safe supplement prior to going onto the suspect pasture/crop. This will reduce the rate of ingestion and also increase nitrate metabolism. Suitable supplements include hay, silage, maize silage, palm kernel or even meal and kiwifruit.
- Put stock on suspect pasture in the late morning or early afternoon. Sunlight lowers nitrate levels. However on rainy, overcast days the nitrate levels can remain dangerous all day.
- Allow the stock to graze the suspect pasture/crop for no longer than an hour.
- Check the cows regularly when starting new pasture or a crop.

**Note that none of these strategies will work if nitrate levels are 2% or higher.**

Mastitis Services

**Grade Busting**
This is a service we can offer if you are grading or getting close to grading and are having issues identifying the problem cows. We RMT test the entire herd and can identify immediately both clinical cases and cows with high somatic cell counts.

**Milking Investigations**
This involves a visit during milking time to assess mastitis risk factors. We assess the milking technique and make a series of real time measurements to assess machine function. We also look at both cow comfort and flow, and assess the milking environment. This enables us to identify key risk factors and what is required to improve mastitis issues on your farm.

**Farm Staff training**
Management of mastitis is critical. Staff must have buy in and understand why mastitis control is so important. Healthy udder is a tool we use to help develop on-farm policies and procedures specific to your situation. It involves training staff in basic mastitis management ON-FARM. For example learning how to improve clinical mastitis detection, how to mark, identify and treat mastitis cows and how to RMT test.

**Data Analysis**
Looking at herd test records and clinical mastitis data to help identify key areas that need addressing. If clinical mastitis records are put into MINDA we can look at clinical mastitis rates by month, age, quarter, treatment etc. We can also use this information to create a culling guide. This ranks cows in the herd to aid culling decisions.

**Please ring us during calving if you are worried about your clinical mastitis or are unhappy with your bulk tank somatic cell count**

True Experiences (Harry’s baby diary)

**Grandma** was spending a few days with the family, and on the fourth morning when everybody was seated around the breakfast table little Harry said: “When are you going to do your trick Dad?” “What trick is that son?”

“You know. You said if Grandma stayed more than three days you would climb the wall.”

The little boy in the crowded showgrounds was obviously distressed. “I’ve lost my Dad,” he sobbed when the policeman approached him.

“What’s your Dad like?” said the cop.

“Beer, women and the odd bet,” said Harry.
RUMENOX
- Contains Monensin - the same active as Rumensin.
- Unique dry flow granules (12kg bucket - 12,000 doses)
- Trial work with Rumensin shows milk protein increased by 40g per cow per day which equates to 20 cents per cow per day at $5 pay out.
- Helps control Bloat.
- Used for water treatment & drenching (1g/cow/day).
- June/July special
  Purchase your seasons Rumenox requirements prior to 31 July and receive $50 per pail saving plus payment spread over 6 months
  $950 + GST
  (7.9 cents/cow/day)
  For max benefits start using at calving or before.

GENESIS POUR-ON
- Worms & Lice
- Oily Rain-fast formula
- Low volume, Nil milk WHT
- Extended activity
- Tested & proven in NZ
- Cost Effective

No frills Price
5.5L - $495 inc GST
(220 x 500kg cow @ $2.25 each)
(550 x 200kg ylg @ $0.90 each)

ECLIPSE POUR-ON
- Unique combination of abamectin and levamisole for superior Cooperia control
- Designed to prevent and treat endectocide resistant parasites in cattle
- Ideal for young stock up to 15 months of age
- Quarantine drench for stock changing properties.
- Low dose rate 1ml / 20kg
- 2.5L - $707 inc
- 5.0L - $1365 inc
- Swandri
- 5.5L - $1365 inc
- No Frills
- 10L - $2495 inc
- LIGHTFORCE
- 100W Halogen Spotlight (retail $259)

Cow Condition – Are you starting on the back foot?
The importance of calving cows down in the right condition has been well documented. It is a key driver for these two critical areas:
- Milk production
- Reproductive performance

Cows and heifers should calve down at BCS 5 and BCS 5.5 respectively. If they aren’t at this level then you should expect some impact on the way the cows’ milk and get back in calf in the coming season.

What is your herd’s BCS currently?
It is a good idea to score and record your herd’s body condition pre-calving to get a point of reference and an understanding as to what sort of influence that will have in the coming months.

We have two DairyNZ accredited body condition scoring vets (Steve Cribb & Bryce Tod) who are available to help you benchmark your herd this season.

What to do if the herd is below target?
If you know your herd won’t achieve target, now is the time to start planning to minimise the negative effects. Many farmers, last season, had poorer reproductive results than expected. It is important to look at the big picture and understand that it is not too late to control how the next mating will go.

Cows struggle to gain weight in the last month of pregnancy due to decreasing gut volume and increasing energy demand for the growing foetus. There is therefore little opportunity remaining to impact calving condition. However the next key time for BCS is mating where the targets are 4 and 4.5 for cows and heifers respectively. Cows will lose weight post calving – that’s inevitable – however minimising weight loss between calving and mating by no more than 1 BCS is the key.

There are tools available to help achieve the necessary body condition at mating. We are available to help work out which will fit in best with your system. Call us now.

Dairy Cattle Reminders
- Supplement with Copper/Copacaps if required
- Drench herd with Eprinex
- Drench yearlings with Eclipse
- Start magnesium prior to calving
- Check selenium is adequate prior to calving
- Book in Rotavirus vaccination
**Calf Rearing Notes**

**Facilities**
- Sheds should have their open-side facing north. Good ventilation is essential but at calf level it should be warm, dry and draft free.
- Calves need access to fresh water and should be on at least 20mm of free draining bedding.
- Pens should hold no more than 10-15 calves - preferably of similar age. Allow 1.5 square meters per calf. Calves should stay in the same pen until put outside.
- There should be a separate sick pen(s) with solid partition sides and separate feeders etc. Feed last.

**Navel III**
- Handle calves gently – don’t drag them through the mud or throw them around.
- Spray navels in paddock and again at shed.
- If navels still wet spray 1-2 x daily till dry up.
- Infected navels are swollen and painful. Other signs include lethargy and swollen joints.
- Prevention of navel infection far better than any cure, but if they do get infected treat with antibiotics for 4-5 days at least.

** Colostrum**
- Calves must receive 10% of bodyweight in colostrum within 6-12 hours of birth. After 8 hours the ability of the intestine to absorb antibodies rapidly decreases.
- Studies have shown that not only are 50% of calves receiving inadequate colostrum, but if they don’t drink from their mother within 6 hours of calving they are unlikely to do so. There is a very good argument therefore to remove calves twice a day to a warm barn and tube feed them 2 L of ‘first milking’ colostrum.
- Have a separate supply of ‘first milking’ fresh colostrum just for the new and youngest calves.
- Continue feeding colostrum as long as possible because, as well as being highly nutritious, the antibodies present have a local protective effect on the gut.

** Scours**
- Twice daily feeding for at least 10 days and feeding-warm milk (40C) for at least 10-20 days substantially reduces the incidence of scours.
- Scouring calves die of dehydration and lack of energy. Electrolytes alone will cure 95% of scouring calves.
- A calf needs 10% of its bodyweight in fluids per day. A typical scouring calf is 5% dehydrated so requires at least 15% of its bodyweight in electrolytes /milk. For a 40kg calf this equates to 6 litres minimum.
- Electrolytes contain only 1/2 the energy of milk so a calf will lose weight on electrolytes alone. A better alternative is to alternate milk and electrolytes (at least 4 hours apart).

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**ENERLECT Electrolyte**

Enerlect is a high energy source that supplies all the important electrolytes lost during diarrhoea. Enerlect also acts to correct the acidosis that is a common feature of serious diarrhoea in calves.

1kg - (10 x 2L doses)  
$26.70  ($2.67 / dose)

3kg - (30 x 2L doses)  
$55.50  ($1.85 / dose)

**Effective & Economic!**

(prices inc GST)

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**Endometritis (Dirty Cows)**

- At risk cows include those that had a retained cleaning (RFM), vaginal discharge, gave birth to a dead calf, had twins or an assisted calving, had metabolic problems or were induced.
- Check at risk cows from as early as 2 weeks after calving. Recent work suggests that the earlier cows are checked the more likely an infection will be diagnosed. As time goes on infection retreats to the body of the uterus and is not always visible even with metri-checking.
- Treated cows conceive about 13 days earlier than untreated and their empty rates are also reduced. The cost benefit of treatment comes from the extra days in milk next year. Assuming 1.7kgMS per day and a $5 payout the benefit of treating is about $110.

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**Rotagen Combo**

A unique solution for your calf scouring problems, Rotagen Combo prevents as well as treats the common causes of calf scours. Rotagen Combo’s key ingredients are combinations of immunoglobulins active against Rotavirus, Cryptosporidia, Salmonella, E.coli and Coronavirus. Can be added to milk or drenched.

Prevention is by using information from previous years to choose an appropriate Rotagen Combo to prevent scours. It is important that all keeper calves are treated at birth for at least five days before any build-up of environmental contamination can occur. Rotagen Combo is an aid only - it is very important that good rearing principles are adhered to.

2.5Kg (50 calf courses of 5 days)
Rotavirus only  - $393
Crypto only  - $371
Rotavirus & E.coli  - $523
Rotavirus & Crypto  - $710

Also available in other sizes and other combinations.
Congratulations to Bryce & Noelle on the birth of their two beautiful daughters Evelyn and Harper.

As an aside Bryce is often asked what the secret is to producing twins. This is his advice:
1. Make your partner a beautiful dinner—do not spare any effort on this—show her that you really care.
2. Buy her some nice flowers
3. Buy her some expensive jewellery
4. Relax with some nice wine
5. Just before you clean up and do the dishes ring me and I will do the rest!

Hardware Disease

Due to the anatomy of a cow’s stomach and the fact that they are clumsy eaters it is quite common to find various foreign bodies such as wire and nails being ingested and causing ill health.

Recently Laura was called out to a cow that was off its milk, tucked up, dehydrated and constipated. An examination revealed a high temperature, abdominal pain and a muffled heart. A diagnosis of hardware disease was made. The cow was treated and made a good recovery.

Cows are clumsy eaters and are not easily able to spit foreign bodies out once they go over the back of the tongue. Consequently they end up eating a variety of things including sharp metallic objects. These objects end up in the reticulum (second stomach) and from there they sometimes perforate forward through the stomach wall, diaphragm and occasionally into the heart.

Symptoms are those of peritonitis initially and then later on pericarditis and pneumonia. Treatment consists of penicillin to treat the infection and dosing with a special rumen magnet to try and draw the metal object back into the reticulum. If early enough, treatment is effective in 75-80% of cases.

Prevention is mainly from not leaving nails or wire clippings on the ground. In the last few years the other notable source of metallic rubbish has been palm kernel. Some batches are particularly bad with all sorts of bits and pieces being found. Feed out and Mixer wagons can be equipped with magnets to try and remove metal flotsam from the feed.

Fitness for Transport

The aim of preparing stock for transport, including standing stock off, is to ensure a comfortable and safe journey for cattle, to reduce effluent on public roads, and to ensure cattle arrive at their destination in a fit and healthy state.

Check list:
- BCS of 3 or greater
- Outside milk and meat WHTs
- ASD prepared including NAIT number
- Off green feed (with water) for at least 4 hours prior to transport, but no longer than 12 hours
- Can stand evenly on all 4 legs.

There are additional requirements for lactating cattle, cattle in their last 3 months of pregnancy and stock travelling for more than 4 hours.

Bobby Calves
- Must be at least 4 days old
- Feed at least half of the daily ration within 2 hours of transport
- Strong enough to withstand travel, healthy and free from disease and disability, alert and moving freely, navel dry, able to to bear weight evenly on all four limbs and hooves hard.
The procedure involves sedating calves (up to 50 at a time) followed by local anaesthetic and disbudding. The major appeal to the method is the sedation, which means there is no pain and therefore no restraint required for injecting the local or the disbudding. Because the calves lie down they are disbudded in the yard or pen. Normally 40-50 can be done per hour. While the calves are sedated we also remove extra teats. For best results it is very important that the calves are disbudded before they are 6 weeks of age. This usually means two batches or more. Older calves incur a $2.25 per head surcharge. Cost $6.75 per head inc G.S.T.

STRESS FREE Calf Disbudding

♦ The procedure involves sedating calves (up to 50 at a time) followed by local anaesthetic and disbudding.
♦ The major appeal to the method is the sedation, which means there is no pain and therefore no restraint required for injecting the local or the disbudding. Because the calves lie down they are disbudded in the yard or pen.
♦ Normally 40-50 can be done per hour. While the calves are sedated we also remove extra teats. For best results it is very important that the calves are disbudded before they are 6 weeks of age. This usually means two batches or more. Older calves incur a $2.25 per head surcharge. Cost $6.75 per head inc G.S.T.

NSAIDS

Research has shown that calves that receive a Non Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID) at the time of disbudding are less stressed and have better growth rates. A single NSAID injection provides pain relief and prevents inflammation for up to 48 hours. We are providing this option for anyone that is interested - cost approximately $4 per calf.
**STARTER**

**“PLUS”**

HIGH ENERGY DRENCH & METABOLIC SUPPLEMENT

CONTAINS MOLASSES, MONO-PROPYLENE GLYCOL, GOLDEN FLAKE RUMEN BY-PASS FAT, CALCIUM, MAGNESIUM & VITAMINS.

These ingredients provide per litre:
- ♦ Energy 15.2 MJME (released over 24 hours)
- ♦ Calcium 54 grams
- ♦ Magnesium 12.3 grams
- ♦ Increases body condition and increases liveweight.

These results are unique to Eprinex. Other worm treatments do not show as significant a production increase. Eprinex is a unique drench, formulated specifically to enhance performance. It is consistent, persistent and rainfast.

Special attention should be given to treating first calving heifers and animals in poorer condition. However the best milk responses are from high producing cows.

The best time to treat is at calving. Other suitable times are any time during the dry. Eprinex has nil meat, bobby calf and milk WHTs.

**SPECIAL price $529 inc GST**

(1x5L treats 100 x 500kg cows @ $5.29 each)

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**RUMETRACE MAGNESIUM CAPSULES**

- Aid in prevention of Milk Fever and Grass Staggers
- Delivers 2g available elemental magnesium per day
- Lasts 9-12 weeks
- Use where dusting and water treatment is not possible
- Ideal for Beef Cows and late calving Dairy Cows

**$35 each inc GST**

**Keto –Aid**

New oral energy supplement for cattle and sheep
- Treats and helps prevent Ketosis
- Contains magnesium, choline, cobalt and iodine to improve metabolism and increase appetite
- Excellent value:

  2L- $36.50  5L– 67.00  20L– $252.00

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**Eprinex**

DRENCHING THE DAIRY HERD

NZ trials have shown that treating cows at calving time with Eprinex pour-on:
- ♦ Increases daily milk solid production by 0.03 kg MS per cow per day for the whole lactation. At $5 /kg for 247 days this equates to **$37 extra income per cow**.
- ♦ Reduces the 2YO heifers calving to conception interval by 13 days and increases the pregnancy rate to first service by 20%.
- ♦ Increases heifer income by **$78 each** due to 13 days extra milk at 1.2 kg milk solids per day.
- ♦ Improves body condition and increases liveweight.

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**Metabolic Supplies**

- Easy to use plastic packs
- Range of products for all situations
- Colour coded packs with needle
  - **Calpro 250** (Orange) - calcium for milk fever
  - **Calpro 375** (Red) - hi-strength calcium
  - **CalproMag** (Green) - calcium & magnesium
  - **GlucalMax** (Blue) - Ca+Mg+dex for energy
  - **GlucalPhos** (Brown) - Ca+Mg+dex+phos
  - **Mag Sulf 20%** (Yellow) - magnesium for staggers
  - **Dextrose 40%** (Purple) - dextrose for ketosis

The Calpro range contain B12 for appetite.

GlucalMax (Blue) and GlucalPhos (Brown) are best given iv. The rest are best given under the skin.

**Quality products at great prices**

**Special carton (12) prices**