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Dear Members

Greetings to all during this wet and rainy season. I have been in the job for around 60 days now and enjoying getting to know our business, our team and of course, how we service our members.

This will be a short message from me for this newsletter as I continue to learn, observe and form views on our way forward. The Executive Committee have been incredibly supportive and I thank them for that.

Unfortunately, one thing that hasn't changed is shortage of vets. This is my number one priority, as it was for Zelda before me, and I will be going after this aggressively. COVID and flu season have also hit us hard, but the team continues to be creative in how we provide the best service possible. I do thank you for your understanding of this – we will get there!

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at the upcoming Farmer BBQs, so hopefully see you then!

Regards, Darren.

Joke
Why is a steer called a steer?
[See back page >](#)

Staff News

We have said farewell to Large Animal technician Natalie Brickell from the Ruawai clinic after 4.5 years. Nat's can-do attitude, experience and knowledge will be missed within the team, however she will still work across the wider practice disbudding and scanning as required.

Zac Pullen said farewell to the vet centre team at the end of July. We will miss his enthusiasm and energy. Zac has completed a number of projects, updated and implemented processes whilst at the Club.

Vet Emily Buswell will be leaving us in August to hone her skills and locum at vet clinics in the Waikato for the next year. Emily is an integral part of the vet team for the past 10 years, not only from a vet and vet skill perspective but also as coach and mentor and altogether great team member.

Nat, Zac and Emily's smiley faces will be missed in our clinics by the Vet Centre staff and members alike.

We have filled the tech vacancy at the Ruawai clinic. Warm welcome to the team Emma Jay Hill who started off with us as part of the casual tech team. Emma Jay is very keen to get out on farm and meet you all.

Ashlee Larsen will join us in January as a new graduate mixed vet. We look forward to welcoming her to the Vet Centre family then.

All our farmers are encouraged to attend our yearly Farmers Breakfasts. These breakfasts help promote an opportunity for the farmers to get off farm, take some time out and enjoy a free coffee & breakfast. It is also a chance to chat to other farmers in the same situation and of course our team at the Vet Centre. Please see invitational information inside.

Last year the vets started a friendly Calving cup competition. We would love farmers feedback to go towards this competition. Let the reception or tech team know if you have any interesting or notable experiences during vet calving's. The more the better.

Foot and mouth disease outbreak overseas

Update from the NZVA

Biosecurity New Zealand is closely monitoring the foot and mouth disease (FMD) outbreak in Malaysia, China and Indonesia. All travellers entering the country have a role to play in protecting New Zealand farms from the highly contagious disease. Although there is a low risk of FMD entering New Zealand, it is important to follow all biosecurity rules to keep our country safe.

! Information for travellers

- Travellers to New Zealand must declare all goods, equipment, and food that could carry unwanted pests or diseases into New Zealand.
- Travellers must also declare when they have been in contact with livestock.
- Do not bring animal products such as meat into New Zealand.
- If you visit a farm overseas, ensure that you clean footwear before departure.
- When someone arrives in New Zealand from a country with reported cases of FMD, there is a one-week stand down period before they can go onto a NZ farm or have contact with susceptible animals.

! Information for farmers

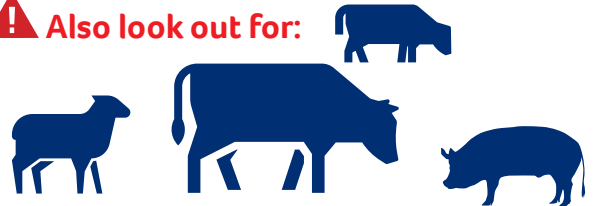
It's important for farmers to maintain strong biosecurity practices, especially if you have workers travelling from countries with reported cases of FMD. Here are some tips to help keep your farm safe from FMD:

- When someone arrives in New Zealand from a country with reported cases of FMD, there is a one-week stand down period before they can go onto a New Zealand farm or have contact with susceptible animals. This includes farm workers arriving from overseas.
- Any farm worker arriving in New Zealand must follow the biosecurity rules outlined above.
- Make sure your new workers understand they cannot feed ruminant protein to other ruminants (such as cattle, sheep, lambs, goats, deer, alpacas)
- Make sure your new workers understand they cannot feed pigs food that could contain (or have been in contact with) uncooked meat
- If you are concerned about your animals' health, call your veterinarian **immediately**.

Clinical signs of FMD include:

- ✓ High fever for two or three days
- ✓ Blisters or sores in the mouth, muzzle, feet and teats
- ✓ Lameness (limping) or a tendency to lie down
- ✓ Shivering or raised temperature
- ✓ Lethargy or depression

! Also look out for:



Death of young animals

Drop in milk yield for cows

Pigs may also squeal when walking



For more information about foot and mouth disease, visit the [MPI website](#).

Drench for calves

Four world-first formulas. Three targeted stages of growth. And a wealth of Kiwi Ingenuity in every combination.

TURBO® CATTLE DRENCH PROGRAMME



Drench for Milking cows

Cattle Meat and Milk Nil withhold





Farmers Breakfasts: 16 – 19 August

Calling all Farmers, families and farm workers ... Breakfast is on us!!

We know calving is a busy time on farm and we would like to help ease the stress.

All farmers are invited to come take some time out and enjoy a free coffee & breakfast, not forgetting to bring along your four legged workers who can have brekkie too.

From 10am – 11.30am

Tuesday 16th Aug	📍	Mangawai @ Tomarata Rugby Club
Wednesday 17th Aug	📍	Waipu Clinic
Thursday 18th Aug	📍	Ruawai Clinic
Friday 19th Aug	📍	Maungaturoto Clinic

RSVP to your local clinic or look out for the link on your email invite.

Why Lepto?

Many of our farmers would have had our vets or vet techs out recently vaccinating your stock against Leptospirosis. But have you ever asked your vet or tech more about Lepto, what it is and why we care so much about it?

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that enters the body via cuts or grazes, or through the mouth and eyes. Once in the body the bacteria lodge in the kidneys and are then passed out in the urine. Infection is spread when other animals, and people, come into contact with infected urine or water or feed contaminated with urine. Animals, such as cattle, pigs, sheep, deer, rodents and even hedgehogs can all be infected with Lepto. The problem is, often these animals don't show any signs of illness. You could be working with infected animals and not even realise it... at least not until you become sick yourself. If you are on a dairy farm you are particularly at risk. Think about all of the cows that urinate during milking, or of the cows you assist during calving, or of the rodents that may set up shop in and around the shed.

It isn't necessarily the stock we are trying to stop from getting sick when we vaccinate. It is you, your vets, your techs, your workers, your family, in fact anybody that comes onto your farm and may be exposed. The incidence of human leptospirosis in New Zealand is amongst the highest in the world. A pretty scary fact when you consider the effects can range from kidney failure or liver failure to meningitis. The Lepto bacteria itself may be treated but can cause permanent damage to organs. Some farmers who have contracted lepto have ended up on dialysis due to permanent kidney failure.

What can you do to help prevent it spreading? Be proactive in getting all of your cattle vaccinated on time. This includes beef animals, bulls, carry overs and any new stock on farm. There is even a vaccine for sheep, deer and pigs.

Remember that animals need a booster vaccination at the same time every year. Vaccination will help reduce the chances of animals of carrying Lepto but there are lots of strains out there, some of which are not covered by the vaccine. Take extra care when working around the farm. Cover cuts with waterproof dressings, wear protective waterproof clothing (e.g. gloves, aprons) when working with stock – especially during milking and calvings! Try not to eat or smoke whilst handling stock as this may introduce the bacteria into the mouth. Wash hands well with disinfectant and keep children away from any potential sources of infection. Keep rodents under control as these can easily spread the disease.

Don't forget to educate staff and visitors about potential Lepto risks - this is your responsibility. There is a story where a farm worker contracted Lepto after his work mates thought it was funny to put cow urine into his drink... If you become unwell and need to visit a doctor, tell them you work on a farm or have visited one recently.



The Vet Centre

**OUR
WINNERS!**



Highland Smoker Flukecare + Se Promotion winners Lloyd and Liz Timperley



The Vet Centre

Maungaturoto | Waipu | Mangawhai | Ruawai

Life as a new Vet Tech

by Mel McKenzie BVT

Ever since I can remember it has been a dream of mine to work within the veterinary industry. It is very surreal to know this lifelong goal has been achieved. Moving up to Northland was a great decision as having the support of amazing workmates and clients is very important as a new grad. In my experience this area and community has exactly that.

The rumoured winterless north, despite the persistent rain, has been very enjoyable as I am still wearing shorts compared to this time last year when I was having to break ice off the tops troughs down in Palmy.

The greatest challenge I have encountered since starting has been getting used to a new area and finding where all of the farms are (I have gotten very good at reversing and turning around in tight spaces!). Thank goodness for google maps. The best job thus far has definitely been my first assisted calving. A job that was meant to be an afternoon of lame cows quickly became what we thought was going to be a rotten calving. The cow was very lethargic and seemed like she was giving up so we had little hope for the calf. However, after putting an arm in, much to our surprise the calf was definitely still alive and unimpressed with me trying to grab his feet. After a little struggle with the leg ropes (I'm hoping with a bit more practice I won't be so awkward with this step), out he came. It was definitely a Kodak moment with the smile on my face.

Being a Vet Technician is definitely very physically demanding but also very rewarding and I cannot wait to get stuck in and become a whizz with disbudding and eventually pregnancy scanning and metri-cleaning. I look forward to working with everyone more as the year progresses.



Joke answer

Because all he can do now is stare at the cows.



FREE! Vaccination and docking for Pet day

We are proud to announce our Annual Pet Day service!

Pet Day is happening soon Get your pet lamb, calf or kid vaccinated and docked. Phone your local clinic!



Calving Season - Checklist Order

You can now order your calving season supplies online. Look out for the email with the order form.

Pickup or arrange drop off with our bi-weekly calving supply deliveries

- ✓ Rotavaccinate herd
- ✓ Calf pen hygiene
- ✓ Obsteric supplies
- ✓ Antahi Tuber Feeder
- ✓ Thermoos
- ✓ Multimin
- ✓ Metabolics and calf energy supplements
- ✓ Scour testing and management