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Dear Members

Greetings to all and a warm welcome to the change of season. There are happy calves and bouncy lambs throughout the district showing us spring has sprung!

What's going on at The Vet Centre - The team have been busy out on farm calving cows and heifers, disbudding calves, treating sick calves, treating lots of lame cows and sheep, metrichecking, metricuring, taking pre-mating bloods, vaccinating calves, organising repro visits and Autumn pregnancy scanning has started.

The team have been busy at the clinic also doing school pet day lamb docking and vaccinations, Animal wellbeing plans, RVM scripts, repro discussions, lab test resulting, discussion consults and plans are being put into place for you.

Calving has seemed to go moderately smoothly this year. There have been a couple of good stories come out of vet call outs. All contribute towards the Calving cup. Again, we ask you to please share your stories with reception or the tech team. The more the better.

The Mastatest machines that are out on farm are being well used this time of year. Nothing but great responses from those who are using their machines. Remember if you have a milk sample from a suspect cow, please bring it into one of our clinics.

Staff News

We have said farewell to Andrea Dooley. Andrea has been with The Vet Centre for 16 years and has had a huge impact in her role both as our Head of HR and Clinic Manager for Mangawhai. We have all really enjoyed Andrea's work ethic and passion to do the right thing. She will be very much missed by the whole team and members alike.

We welcome some new changes to the Vet Centre Team.

John Alwaneh joined us as a Production Animal Vet. Based at Maungaturoto and working 2/3 days a week. John is a very welcome addition to our team and has had wide experience in both the academic and practice of veterinary services, across Jordan, Australia and New Zealand. He is only with us for a short term, but may return to us later.

Don Thomas has agreed to extend his locum services to us as a Production Animal Vet, for 3 days a week out of the Maungaturoto Clinic, until the end of November.

Andrea Mitcheson is taking sabbatical leave from October until February, taking some well-earned time off to enjoy life in general!

Sarah Briggs has been appointed into the role of Senior Vet Production Animal. Sarah will take the lead on all things production animal.

Joke
**What did the
Mama cow say
to her baby cow**

[See back page>](#)



Changes in milk withholding period for Abamectin pour-on products

The milk withholding period for ALL abamectin pour-on products has changed from NIL to 35 days as of 29 July 2022.

The withholding period on these products has been extended from NIL to 35 days to ensure milk residues will be below the lower milk maximum residue level (MRL) coming into force on 19 September 2022. The new MRL will be 0.003 mg/kg.

Any abamectin pour-on products used on or after 15 August 2022 may result in residues that will exceed the new MRL. Residues may deplete to a level that will comply with the new MRL before 35 days, but this will depend on a number of factors including how quickly individual animals metabolise abamectin, the total number of animals treated in the milking herd, when they were treated, and the level of milk production of treated animals. ACVM advises veterinarians to ensure farmers are aware of the change in MRL and product milk withholding periods. They strongly recommend discouraging farmers from using these products on their lactating cows from now on.

It isn't always diarrhoea

By Vet Finn Maloney BVSc

With spring calving well and truly here, it is always wise to consider all the reasons why your calves are not doing as well as they should. Whilst diseases of the gastrointestinal tract likely account for 90% of the problems we see in calves, it is prudent to have other considerations in mind.

Recently I was asked to have a quick look over a bull calf that was "just not right". Despite never scouring, he was skinny and not thriving. A quick listen with my stethoscope identified a very loud heart murmur. A congenital heart disease was suspected, and unfortunately the calf had to be euthanised on welfare grounds. With permission from the farmer, a post-mortem was performed.

Sure enough, this calf was found to have a ventricular septal heart defect measuring about the size of a \$2 coin. Ventricular septal defects are birth defects in which there is a hole in the wall that separates the two chambers of the heart. Instead of blood flowing nicely into the heart and out through the vessels, blood is continuously regurgitated through the hole from the left side of the heart back to the right side. This regurgitation is what we clinically hear as a "heart murmur", and in this case the murmur was so severe

Drench for calves

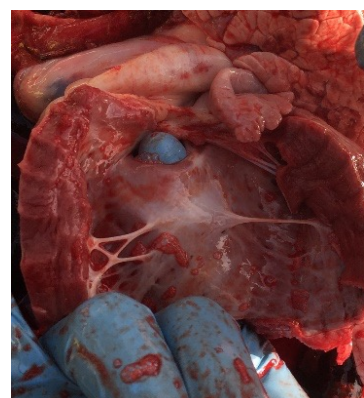
Four world-first formulas. Three targeted stages of growth. And a wealth of Kiwi Ingenuity in every combination.



Drench for Milking cows

An alternative would be Eprinomectin – pour on or injectable. WHP milk Nil, meat Nil. Talk to our helpful team at the Vet Centre today.

that it could actually be felt when placing the hands over the chest. As the calf grows, the heart has to work extra hard on pumping this excess regurgitated blood and consequently the animal does not thrive as well as it should. Left to its own devices, this calf would have eventually developed congestive heart failure.



Congenital heart disease is a very uncommon cause of "failure to thrive" in calves, so do not take this story as an excuse to say every skinny calf has a bad ticker. But it illustrates an important saying in veterinary medicine;



"If you hear hooves, think horses - but don't forget about zebras".



Farmers Breakfast

The team here at the Vet Centre would like to say a huge thank you to all who attended the Farmers Breakfast BBQ's this year. We had our farmers coming out on a cold day ready to warm up with a fresh coffee and a yummy bacon and egg stack. There were plenty of prizes big and small. The cow at the Mangawhai and Waipu clinic breakfast was a real talking point. All of those who attended had a nice time getting off farm and having a good catch up. The prize winner of the North Fuels 200L of diesel goes to Ashley Cullen of Maungaturoto.

< General Manager Darren & Vet Tech Emily

Worming Farm dogs & all dogs that go on farm!

Sheep Measles is a risk to every sheep farm. The Sheep Measles tapeworm matures in approximately 35 days, so dogs need to be dosed every month to ensure no tapeworms present in dogs reach maturity.

Sheep measles pose no risk to human health, but blemishes in sheep meat result in downgrading or in extreme cases condemning of the carcasses, (and no one wants this!)

Worming tablets target Sheep Measles every month, and 4 times a year controls other canine gastrointestinal worms which could cause your dogs' ill health: Canine Roundworm, Hookworm and Whipworm. Young pups, pregnant bitches and dogs in high challenge environments will need regular worming – see your clinic for specific information in these cases. To make life simple for everyone, our clinics offer a service that posts all the doses out to farm every month.

To avoid tablets piling up in the woolshed, please make sure it's someone's specific job to make sure the dogs get wormed on time each month!



Ask us about our wormer mailout program if you're not signed up already.

Remember to use a monthly dosing programme that goes:



Equivalent to monthly treatment of:



What is Sheep Measles?

Sheep Measles is the common name given to lesions in sheep and goats caused by an intermediate stage of a tapeworm parasite.



The parasite relies on two hosts to complete its life cycle. Eggs produced by the tapeworm in dogs are passed to pasture where they are ingested by sheep or goats.

- ✓ All new dogs should be dosed at least 48 hours before coming onto the property.
- ✓ If new dogs enter the property without being treated beforehand, they should be dosed, quarantined for 3-4 days and all faeces destroyed.
- ✓ All pet dogs should be included in the farm dosing programme as often they have free run of the property.
- ✓ Ask any people with visiting dogs to treat their dogs for sheep measles within a month or at least 48 hours prior to coming onto the property. e.g. Contractors or hunters.

⚠ Look out for:

Hard white cysts



Either on the surface or deep in muscle tissue



Ovis Management runs a really excellent website. For more info : www.sheepmeasles.co.nz



Joke answer
"It's pasture bed time."



Farm Dog Vax Run

The annual dog vax run will be held at the end of October and run into November. This "members only" benefit is one not to be missed. It involves a vet and a tech/nurse coming out to your farm on a planned run to vaccinate your dogs and cats. There is no farm visit fee or mileage charge. The run is also an opportunity to get flea, tick & worm treatments prior to going into summer and get your farm pets checked from nose to tail. If you have not taken up this benefit before then please get in touch with your local clinic to be added to the run.

– \$10 off every Seresto collar sold during the run –

Valid until 30 Nov. Plus go in the draw to win 1 of 800, \$80 BP vouchers – until 5 Nov. Order early and have the collar fitted at your dog's visit. *Conditions apply.



^ Vet Tech Mel & Ben the Fuzzy Pup

Lepto vaccinations

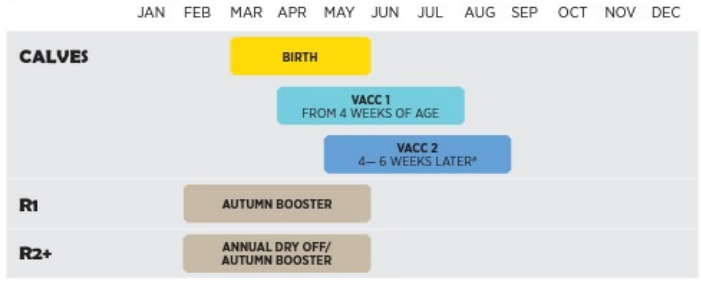
The ideal conditions for survival and transmission of leptospires are warm and wet climatic conditions. Annual revaccination can be timed to be just prior to this period of greatest risk. This will vary region by region in NZ, but annual revaccination in late Summer / early Autumn is generally recommended.

Vaccination Schedule - Cattle

Spring Calving Herds



Autumn Calving Herds



*Spring born calves require an autumn booster to align them with the herd and avoid long re-vaccination intervals.
 #Any calves receiving their second vaccine before 12 weeks of age will require a third vaccination around 6 months of age to manage the potential risk of MDA interference.
 R2+ includes mixed aged cows.

