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New clinic opening soon

Greetings to you all at the mid-point of the year, which also coincides with gypsy day for some of you. Our General Manager Darren has been part of the Vet Centre team now for a year. In this time there have been several important internal changes and keeping to his word he has, along with his senior leadership team, found new faces to join our vet team here at the Vet Centre. The busy reception teams have been working hard filling dry cow orders which helps the cows get their well earned holiday from the shed. The on-farm teams have been busy providing services such as the ever-entertaining heifer teatsealing, herd dry off jobs, autumn calf disbudding, late scanning, leptos and rotavirus vaccinations for cows and heifers. Along with the odd dehorning and the never-ending line of lame cows.

We have some very exciting news for our Ruakākā clients – Our Ruakākā clinic is opening in June. We will be providing large animal products such as calving equipment, drench options, restricted medicines / drugs, metabolics and any other farm veterinary products you may need. If we do not have it in stock then just ask the lovely staff and they will get it in for you.

Consults RVM / AWP

If you have your RVM / PAR script or your Animal Wellbeing Plan is due for renewal, please phone your local clinic to arrange a consult with one of our enthusiastic vets. This is a great opportunity to discuss your farm and make a plan for what you need from us.



Calf Disbudding 2023 Prices

Disbudding is best performed on calves from 2-6 weeks old, inside covered pens. The Vet Centre Comfort Disbudding includes local anaesthesia, sedation and long-acting pain relief to provide the best pain management for calves to ensure a fast recovery.

Comfort Disbudding

2-6 weeks old
\$15.20/calf

Over 6 weeks old
\$19.20/calf

*Pricing for Vet Centre financial members only.



Joke

**What happens
when you try
talking to a cow**

See back page>

Pre calving checklist

Phone your local Vet Centre clinic to arrange your list to be put together ready for pick up.

Get ready for calving:

- The Vet Centre** on speed dial in all staff phones
- RVM / PAR Script complete
- Rotavirus vaccine booked
- Calf pen cleaned, disinfected and dry with new bedding
- Hospital pen set up, isolated
- Obstetric supplies, e.g. ketomax, oxytocin, propercillin
- Ropes, lube, drugs, iodine tincture spray, milk sample pottles
- Tuber feeder, refractometer
- Thermometer
- Multimin
- Metabolics and calf electrolytes
- Scour tests, prevention, and treatment supplies



Above: New vets and the tech team along with Darren getting some important ultrasound training in.



Above: The Vet Centre team taking on a herd dry off job in full force. Happy cows off for their holiday just before duck shooting season.

Rotavirus vaccination. Why?

There has long been the question, why should I rotavirus vaccinate my cows and heifers?

What is the purpose of the vaccination...? Rotavirus vaccine is for the active immunisation of pregnant cows and heifers against E. coli, rotavirus and coronavirus which passes the antibodies in the colostrum and transition milk into the newborn calf.

Why should you vaccinate? These common and highly infectious disease will not only damage the health of replacement calves and potential future of the herd but will also take a serious mental toll on staff alike.

The vaccination works by transferring antibodies into the colostrum. It must be administered 3-12 weeks before calving begins. The new born calf should receive at least 10% of their body weight of fresh, first milking colostrum within the first 12 hours of life. Leaving the calf with their dam cannot guarantee that an adequate amount is being consumed. Covered storage, stirring daily, testing colostrum and hygienic handling is a minimum when

providing the best for your calves. Vaccination is not going to prevent rotavirus. It assists to reduce the effects on mortality rates, but it is not going to prevent the disease. Inhouse testing can be performed in clinic, bring in a fresh faecal sample if you unsure of reason behind calf scours.

To discuss best practice options for your calf's health phone your local Vet Centre today.



Some of the tech team cooling off after dehorning. Mel, Jenna and Emma.

ON FARM NEXT



AUTUMN

- Premating Trace Element testing
- Reproduction targets set
- Bull / AI management plan
- Calf 7in1 / leptovaccinations complete, first at 4 weeks old then booster 4-6 weeks after
- BCS – recording and benchmarking progress
- Metrichk and cure the herd in preparation for mating - 2 weeks post calving

SHEEP

- Ensure effective drench plan in place
- Pain relief, antibiotics and oxytocin on hand for difficult lambing
- 5in1 vaccination for ewes - 2-4 weeks pre lamb, hoggets / rams - 1st and booster before winter, lambs - 2 doses 4-6 weeks apart or lamb vaccine at tailing + 5in1 1st and booster shots
- Lamb milk powder, colostrum, tuber and feeder with plan for orphans

SPRING

- Pre-calving checklist completed
- Staff energised and prepped ready to rock n roll
- Calf pens clean and dry ready for calves
- Milking plant checked and any issues resolved
- Rotavirus vaccine booked
- Plenty of feed and supplements to get through the wet season
- Heifer teatsealing
- Record all assisted calving's and RFM for metrichk and curing 2 weeks after calving
- Ensure all cattle - cows, heifers, bulls and calves R1s have all leptovaccinations - protect yourself and your staff
- Start transition period well before calving
- Ensure multi-mineral mix going into herd
- Plenty of feed and supplements to get through the wet season

BEEF HERDS

- Drench all cattle between 6 months - 15 months every 28 days with a triple or combination drench
- Plenty of feed and supplements to get through the wet season
- Dehorn stock at a young age
- 5in1 vaccination from 4 weeks of age, booster 4-6 weeks after, prevent diseases

ALPACAS

- Vitamin D supplement for your alpacas every 3 months, very important given our overcast summer season
- Get dental checks done
- Start supplementing with Lupins (Hi-Gain horse feed)
- 6 in 1 booster
- Faecal egg count monitoring



Joke answer
"Everything just goes in one ear and out the udder!"




Navel ill By Vet Ellie Green

With disbudding well underway for Autumn-born calves, a few of our team have seen a rise in cases of ‘navel-ill’ throughout mobs. ‘Navel-ill’, an infection of the umbilical cord, is normally contracted just after birth and is mainly caused by poor environmental hygiene. Thanks to the lovely weather Northland has thrown our way in recent months, wet weather and muddy paddocks are likely to have increased the number of cases seen this year.

‘So, what should I look out for?’

With navel-ill, you’ll typically see swelling around the umbilicus which can vary in size. If you give the navel a light squeeze, the calf will often tell you it hurts! If your calf has a more severe infection, they may have a poor suckle response when fed. Normally, a healthy umbilicus may have a dry, hardened remnant of the umbilical cord. If you see puss coming from the navel, or the skin around the navel is red and sore, you have your answer!

‘My calf has a swollen navel, what next?’

If in doubt, give your vet a call. Navel-ills can become quite serious if left untreated and lead to spreading to the abdomen or joints (septicaemia).

Quick action = better outcome!

Preventing navel ill in calves

- ✓ **Double dip!** When you collect a calf in the paddock, dip their navel in 10% iodine. Once back in the yard, dip them again if you can (a few hours after they have arrived or at their second feed). **DON’T** use teat spray to do this – the aim of dipping is to dry out the navel. Teat spray will contain an emollient to keep the condition of teats which isn’t what we want for calf navels!
- ✓ **Dry paddocks** – Unfortunately, this one might be a bit out of your control but try and keep any turned-out calves from muddy areas if you can. Rotate where the calves feed from to stop them returning to muddy patches and look where they are lying down to rest – If it’s in a bog, you’ve found the problem. The same applies to housed calves – Clean dry bedding is essential!
- ✓ **Good colostrum** – As with any calf illness, poor colostrum leads to problems. Remember the 3 Q’s - quality, quantity and quickly! Dairy NZ has some great info regarding the 3 q’s

