



# The Vet Centre

WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ

June/July  
2024

**H**ello everyone,  
We would like to start with a huge thank you to all our farmers who have had outstanding patience with us moving onto a new clinic software, which should bring heaps of improvement to the service we provide. There have been a few mixed emotions here at *The Vet Centre* as we move from nice sunny days of autumn to embracing the chilly feels of winter. With a few frosty mornings in May, we have definitely felt a change of season at the clinics.

The Farm Animal team has been helping dry off cows, getting them ready for their pre-calving holiday. There are a few heifer teatsealant jobs on the go, with more to complete. It's always entertaining hanging out with the heifers. Autumn calving and disbudding have gone very well. On the beef & sheep side, beef herds have had their scanning and dehorning done. Some sheep farmers have been doing faecal egg counts, testing to see evidence of worm burden on farm. The vet and tech team are always happy to complete faecal count tests and discuss the results. Faecal egg counting is always a cheap and easy way to get a snapshot of what is happening on pasture.

If you have not done so already, now is the time to book in for your annual Animal Wellbeing Plan consultations and RVM/PAR scripts with the Vets.



**What does the farmer talk about while milking a cow?**

ANSWER  
ON PAGE 4

## Next on farm should include;

- **Sheep** – A pre-lamb vaccination of Covexin 10 in 1 and a triple drench 10 – 3 weeks prior to lambing. Ensure you have colostrum, wool overs and teats for those little darlings that may need some extra TLC.
- **Beef** – A pre-winter combo drench to help reduce essential energy being used to fight worm burden and Multimin for cows and calves during the colder months.
- **Dairy** – Autumn cows. Premating blood testing, monitor for lameness and mastitis. Stock up on pain relief anti-inflammatories and Multimin for cows and calves.
- **Dairy** – Spring cows. Precalving Multimin, drench with Eprisure pre-calving, monitor for signs of mastitis and sickness. Stock up on obstetric supplies and calving aids.

## Pre-calving checklist

**Phone your local Vet Centre clinic to arrange your list to be packed ready for pick up.**

- ✓ 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 spray, milk sample pottles
- ✓ Tuber feeder, refractometer
- ✓ Thermometer
- ✓ Multimin
- ✓ Metabolics and calf electrolytes
- ✓ Scour tests, prevention, and treatment supplies.



## IN THIS ISSUE

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- **Transition Minerals** – Farm Vet Thomas Traill
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- **Vaccination changes** – Future-proofing your farm and staff.
- **Disbudding info for dairy farms**



# Transition Minerals

The day of calving is one of the biggest days of the year for a cow. She goes through a significant physiological, immunological, physical and nutritional change during this period. It is therefore imperative we do everything we can to help her body transition through this period.

Two key parts of this transition are the nutritional content of her diet and her macro (calcium and magnesium) and micro (copper, selenium and vitamin B12) mineral demands.

Supplementation with macro minerals, as a rule of thumb, should begin three weeks before calving. While there are many methods to deliver magnesium and calcium, we need to be aware of the dose the cow is receiving “down her throat”. The method of delivery has a big part to play on what gets “down her throat”; dusting on pasture, supplementation in-feed, mineral delivery via water and oral drenching, or bolusing all have their pros and cons.

*It is important to understand all your options to structure the plan most effective for your farming system.*

The great thing is that there are options for any system. In-line water dispensing of macro and micro minerals is an option provided appropriate infrastructure is in place on farm. A similar scenario exists for in-feed mineral delivery. A range of in-feed or in-water



**Thomas Traill**  
Farm Vet

mineral mixes can be created, which are specific to your cows and farm mineral status, resulting in a tailored, easily delivered mineral delivery process on farm. Similarly, magnesium boluses are available to deliver to cows close to calving to ensure a reliable, consistent delivery of magnesium pre-calving – sometimes these boluses’ biggest win is mitigating the need to continue magnesium supplementation when your springer mob gets down to just a handful of cows!

Many other factors play into the ability to economically, practically and effectively deliver these minerals to cows pre-calving. These include aged pregnancy diagnosis/expected calving dates, feed nutrient/energy analysis, weather patterns, and feed on hand during winter/spring.

Overall, we suggest a robust transition period plan which incorporates nutrition planning pre- and post-calving, a macro and micro mineral delivery plan, and establishing a thriving immune system in each and every cow.

## Checking your newborn calves this spring

Do you collect newborn calves once a day? Or twice a day? Do you know which is best for your farm?

We all know that colostrum intake is super important in the first 12 hours. For most Northland dairy herds, this occurs in the paddock, rather than in the calf shed.

**We can determine whether your herd is achieving this target within the paddock, by blood sampling newborn calves BEFORE they receive their first feed in the calf sheds.**



If you would like to know how well your dairy cows are feeding their calves (and therefore whether you should be leaving them in the paddock shorter or longer), book one of our techs to come and take x5-10 blood samples from your newborn calves. The Vet will let you know your results, and the best practice for your farm.



# Vaccination changes

This year we offer changes in some of the vaccination programmes for cows, heifers, and calves, along with any other stock that may be running on your farm.

**Leptospirosis** – We are very excited to roll out the new Lepto 4-Way™ vaccination in June. It is certainly an exciting new preventative product. Building our herd immunity and protecting the people who work with and around cattle is a pretty exciting step in preventative practices. The emergence of the new strain Pacifica is having a substantial effect on human health risks on farms. Pacifica is the most common Lepto strain affecting farmers, specifically dairy farmers nationwide. Vaccination with Lepto 4-Way™ presents the opportunity to reduce cow shedding and thus risk to anyone in contact with dairy cattle herds in New Zealand. The Vet Centre team is here to answer any questions about this new programme, which is running nationwide.

**Clostridia** – With individual animal health at the forefront at The Vet Centre we have revised our best practice vaccination regime. We often get reports of unexplained sudden deaths in youngstock, and this is a simple method to help reduce that risk. We would like to introduce Covexin 10 vaccinations for young stock, beef and sheep. We recognise that Covexin 10 offers GREATER cover against clostridial diseases and can be administered from 2 weeks of age, perfect for disbudding. A booster is still required 4-6 weeks after the sensitiser shot. Covexin 10 contains the additional clostridial strains *C. perfringens* type A, *C. perfringens* type B, *C. perfringens* type C, *C. sordellii* and *C. haemolyticum* that we have diagnosed on our client's farms many times in the past.

Ultravac 7in1 and 5in1 vaccination will still be available for those wishing to continue this option. Discuss what's best for your farm with the team at the Vet Centre.



## STAFF NEWS

We have said "See ya later," to technician **Emma Jay Hill**. Emma has switched professional roles, and we should still see her around the area. We wish Emma the very best with her new venture. *The Vet Centre* team and farmers alike will miss her humour and positive vibrance.

# 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.

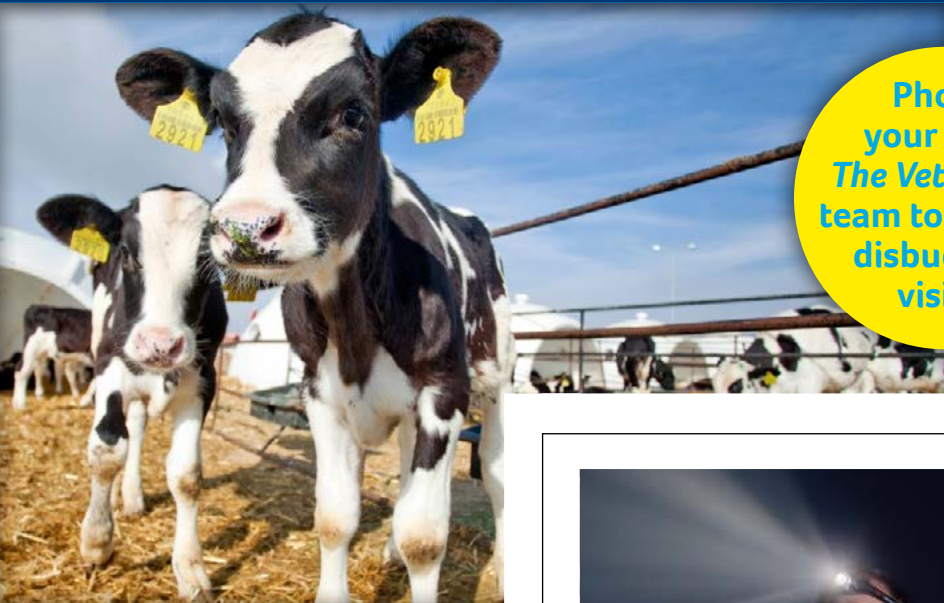
Maungaturoto	09 431 8318
Mangawhai	09 431 4535
Ruakākā	09 433 4916
Ruawai	09 439 2506
Waipu	09 432 0693



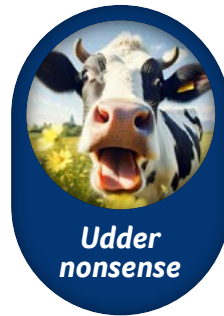
*We care, pets, people, community*

[www.thevetcentrenorthland.co.nz](http://www.thevetcentrenorthland.co.nz)





Phone  
your local  
**The Vet Centre**  
team to discuss  
disbudding  
visits.



**Udder  
nonsense**

## Disbudding info for dairy farms

The perfect age for disbudding is 2-6 weeks old in mobs of 10 or more, inside covered pens.

The Vet Centre team believes that a combination of sedation, local anaesthetic and long-acting pain relief drugs provide the best welfare and wellbeing management for calves to ensure a fast recovery.

The team will also check for extra teats, navel ill, and any other abnormalities noted.

A vaccination of Covexin 10 can be given at the same visit.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Calves should not be fed milk and meal within the 3 hours before the visit.

## ILLUMINATE YOUR WAY

**PURCHASE a 5L of TURBO® or BOSS® Pour On and receive a Ledlenser H3.2, a lightweight headlamp boasting 120 lumens of illumination.**

**Or with every 2.5L of TURBO® or BOSS® Pour On receive an Alleva Puffer vest\*. Your go to layer for on or off the farm.**

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### Waipu Clinic

53 The Centre  
Waipu  
P 09 432 0693

**Opening Hours**

Mon-Fri: 8.00am-5.00pm  
Saturdays:  
9.00am-12.30pm

### Ruawai Clinic

23 Jellicoe Road  
Ruawai  
P 09 439 2506

**Opening Hours**

Mon-Fri: 8.30am-12.30pm  
1:00pm-4:30pm  
Saturdays: CLOSED

### Mangawhai Clinic

36 Moir St  
Mangawhai  
P 09 431 4535

**Opening Hours**

Mon-Fri: 8.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturdays:  
9.00am - 12:30pm

### Maungaturoto Clinic

184 Hurndall St  
Maungaturoto  
P 09 431 8318

**Opening Hours**

Mon-Fri: 8.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturdays: CLOSED

### Ruakākā Clinic

385 Marsden Point Road  
Ruakākā  
P 09 433 4916

**Opening Hours**

Mon-Thurs: 8.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturdays: CLOSED