



The Vet Centre

WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ

October/November
2024

The temperatures have risen with the change of season (there is nothing like the vets doing a rotten calving in warm weather...). Farmers look like they are glowing as the grass is pumping and animal health across the district is generally going well. There have been a few calf scour outbreaks this spring season, which has had the team on high alert with treatment plans. Overall, feedback is that the spring calving season has gone well with a kind and not-so-wet winter. Autumn herds have had their pregnancy scans checked off the list and are well into the swing of milking.

Beef, sheep and goat units will be nearly finished with the calving, lambing and kidding season. Docking and tailing along with vaccinating and drenching are on top of the to-do list. Barber's pole is very much still around in sheep, so be sure to use a drench that controls this nasty parasite. As we move into the summer months it's time to get the sheep haircuts sorted and a fly prevention treatment applied. Come into clinic and ask about our awesome drenching options for both beef and sheep/goats.

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- The current state of lameness in dairy cows.

Drench to test and management



Nicole Hill
Vet Tech

The best way to know if you need to drench your stock is to bring in a faecal sample and we can test it in clinic.

When we drench our animals there are 3 main goals we want to achieve:

*Removal of existing parasite burden.
Reduce reinfection. Reduction in pasture contamination.*

Clinical signs indicating you may need to drench your stock can include:

Ill thrift /rough coat, Weight loss/ emaciation, diarrhoea, anaemia, oedema, and death.

Sub-clinical (things you cannot always see) signs can include:

Appetite suppression, immune system response – less energy and protein, poor growth, and disease.

You can check the level of burden in your cattle, sheep and or goat, by collecting a small sample (a yoghurt pottle size) of their faeces and bringing it into your local clinic. We can run a cheap test where we count to see how many eggs are present. This can be done 10 days after the last drench was applied. We will report back to you whether your

stock's burden is high, moderate, or low. Ideally, this test should be done before you drench and 10 days after to get a better picture of the worm challenge.

The lifecycle for most parasites usually takes around 21 days, hence the guideline for monthly drenching, especially in young stock. Using the best drench for the age and stage of the animal is crucial to good growth rates and overall health. This helps to reduce reinfection and aids in building the animal's resistance to parasites.

Another means of parasite control is in the management of the pasture. Cross-grazing with cattle and sheep can reduce re-infection as these animals do not share the same worms, creating a vacuum effect on the worms on the pasture. The use of hay, feed crops and crop stubble at high-risk periods can help reduce parasite intake and reinfection in the animal.

The farm team at *The Vet Centre* is more than happy to have a chat with you and come up with a drench test and management plan that will work best for you and your animals.



NVO + early intervention = more days in milk

Non-visible oestrus (non-cycling) cows can be a real pain when it comes to mating and maintaining next year's calving pattern. Recording heats early after calving will show when you may have a non-visible oestrus cow and need to engage in repro assistance early.

Benefits of early repro intervention include increased numbers of AI replacement heifers and more days of milk in the vat, and longevity in the herd. Plan ahead, don't leave it until the end of the mating period before getting repro assistance. Tail painting and heat detection early after calving is crucial for planning for mating. Ensure the herd has been metrichecked and any dirty cows treated 14-28 days after calving, especially if they have needed assistance with calvings, retained membranes, and rotten calvings. The aim is to inseminate 90% of the herd in the first 21 days of mating and at the same time increase the 6-week in-calf rate, have a shorter AB period, reduce the empty rate, place less pressure on the bulls, and ensure there are enough replacement AI calves for next season. Speak to your farm vet to get the best repro set up for early assistance and a better outcome.

A healthy uterus = higher fertility = productive dairy farming



Sarah Briggs
BVSc
Farm Vet



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What do you call a cow with a twitch?

ANSWER ON PAGE 6



Lepto 4 way – Why?

In recent years, there have been cases of lepto in farmers and staff working on vaccinated dairy farms, many of which are thought to be due to a newly discovered strain of lepto within our dairy herds - 'Pacifica.' Recent research suggests that Pacifica could be present in three-quarters of dairy herds throughout New Zealand.

A large-scale survey of 4000 dairy cows across 200 herds throughout NZ was conducted in 2016 results found that:

- 27% of herds had at least one cow actively shedding lepto bacteria in the urine.
- 74% of herds had at least one cow displaying antibodies to Pacifica/Tarassovi.

With exposed dairy herds in every major dairy farming region in New Zealand, these shedding cows were likely linked to the increase in human leptospirosis cases.

Humans catch leptospirosis from infected animal urine. Even a splash or fine spray of urine or indirect contact with urine-contaminated water can spread large numbers of leptospire. Cuts, sores and skin grazes increase the risk of infection, as does licking your lips and eating, smoking or vaping before washing and drying your hands.



People at higher risk of exposure are those working near the rear of the animal such as:

- Farmers
- Vets
- Vet Technicians, especially those who administer internal teat sealants
- Stock truck drivers
- Milkers - Milking is a high-risk activity because of the risk of urine splash
- Family members, including children, are at risk if they go barefoot or paddle in contaminated water.

This season we recommend the move to a new Leptospirosis vaccination, Lepto 4-way (Virbac). This is a vaccine which became available in early 2024 and will be rolled out over the 2024-25 season. We can easily add the lepto vaccination in at the same time as pregnancy scanning.

You have probably heard our farm vet and tech team talking about it on farm already. If not hit them up about converting to it.



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LEPTO 4-WAY™**



Farm dog vax run

We are in the swing of planning our annual farm dog vaccination runs across the clinics. The visit includes a wonderful vet and tech or nurse team coming out to your farm on a planned date. This will be held at the end of October and continue into November across the area. We also have a range of flea, tick, and worming treatments onboard if your pet needs them. If you are a commercial account holder and have used this service in the past, expect to have an email for an approximate visit day and time from your local tech.

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The current state of lameness in dairy cows



Sarah Briggs
BVSc
Farm Vet

In recent times, climatic factors have meant more than usual number of lame cows in our local dairy farms. Lame cows can be very time-consuming and exhausting for the farmer. Most farmers reach out to their vet for advice and help in getting on top of this issue on farm only after there is a small mob. Early detection, along with fortnightly lameness scoring and prompt effective treatment, as simple as a trim, hoof block and KetoMax, means faster recovery rates. This can mean that cows get milk back in the vat quicker, reduce antibiotic use, and maintain their hierarchy in the herd (this can be challenging to resume if they are left out of the herd for a long period).



Some of the challenges farmers face can be:

1. Lack of time
2. Unsure of "how to"
3. Poor facilities.

Our farm team is all trained and ready to help our farmers treat and aid in the prevention of lame cows. The team can assist in identifying the barriers on individual farms

and working with the farm team to come up with practical solutions. We also have the magic wrangler trailer we can bring out on farm or farmers can hire it to make treating lame cows early easy peasy!

DairyNZ also has some useful resources including their [lameness scoring system](#) to identify lame cows, [Healthy Hoof app](#), and the [lameness cost calculator](#).

KetoMax 15%

Treat for 3 days to reduce pain and inflammation



**Treats 33 cows*
for 3 days**

Nil Milk Withholding



Evidence based vet medicines

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www.agrihealth.co.nz

AgriHealth

*Assuming 500kg cow. KetoMax 15% ACVM Registration No. A11031 RVM. Available only under veterinary authorisation



STAFF NEWS

We have said “See ya on farm” to **Joanne Ramsey** who was part-time customer service officer at our Ruawai clinic for 9 months. Jo’s time at the Ruawai clinic has made a fantastic impact on the Ruawai clinic, team, and community.

Caroline Prior has taken on the full-time customer service role at Ruawai. She originally worked across the Ruawai and Maungaturoto clinics.



Amelia Darby, who has a lifestyle block with a mixture of animals has taken on a part-time customer service role at the Maungaturoto clinic.



Michele Bhana has joined us as a part-time customer service rep covering Mangawhai and Waipu.



Bantix

- Nil withhold for milk and meat
- Convenient pour-on application
- Active against all 3 stages of the NZ cattle ticks.



DOSE RATE:

Cattle:

- Up to 200kg 20mL
- 200-300kg 30mL
- 301 – 400kg 40mL
- Over 400kg 10mL/100kg

Deer:

- Up to 6 months of age 10mL
- Yearlings and adults 20mL



Sick of flies in the shed?

Beat nuisance fly and lice with Delmax pour on. Reduce risk of pink eye infection in your cattle. Only \$1.76 per 400kg dose.

prices subject to change

BENEFITS

- Nil milk withholding period
- Control of biting and sucking lice
- Up to four weeks protection against nuisance fly
- Very competitive cost per dose
- Developed in New Zealand for New Zealand



Waipu Clinic

53 The Centre
Waipu
P 09 432 0693

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:
8.00am-5.00pm
Saturdays:
9.00am-12.30pm

Ruawai Clinic

23 Jellicoe Road
Ruawai
P 09 439 2506

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays: CLOSED

Mangawhai Clinic

36 Moir St
Mangawhai
P 09 431 4535

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays:
9.00am - 12:30pm

Maungaturoto Clinic

184 Hurdall St
Maungaturoto
P 09 431 8318

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays: CLOSED

Ruakākā Clinic

385 Marsden Point Road
Ruakākā
P 09 433 4916

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays: CLOSED