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## TVS client and staff Christmas BBQs

Tararua Vets would like to thank you as our clients and invite you to join us to unwind for Christmas.

**COME AND JOIN US ON:**

Thursday 10th December at the Pongoroa Hotel from 4.30 to 7.00pm

and/or

Friday 18th December at our Pahiatua and Dannevirke Clinics from 4.00 to 6.00pm

**We look forward to catching up with you there!**

## NEW LOOK newsletter!

**Sandy Wilson**

Welcome to our new look newsletter which includes articles from our large pool of company veterinarians from within our Totally Vets Group.

This is allowing us to have quarterly eight page newsletters to ensure you are loaded with the information you need heading into a new season. You will receive the first of these next month as we head into 'summer'... 'summer' doesn't that sound fantastic!

**SPRING ROUNDUP**

For dairy farmers we headed into spring with a lot of uncertainty as to what was ahead. Spring provided its typical stresses with calving troubles, calf issues and driving rain. However, things are starting to look a lot more positive as we head on into mating. The rise in pay-out and the improvement in auction prices will be a relief for many farmers. Yet Fonterra's sudden emails about limiting palm kernel intakes, at a time when many people were on top of their grass, was a bolt from the blue and raises a few questions.

Lambing has been a mixed bag with the heavy rainfalls, up to 300mls on some farms, taking it's toll on some areas. That aside, there are some very healthy lambs running around and the grass is finally starting to grow. The impact of El Niño is slowing showing itself and it would be nice to think this will not result in terrible lamb prices in the New Year.



**EPRINEX STIHL CHAINSAW & LINE TRIMMER WINNERS**

CONGRATULATIONS to our winners Andy Jenkins (Pahiatua Clinic) and Matt Southgate (Dannevirke Clinic) who went into the draw when purchasing five litres of Eprinex® Pour-On.

Thank you to Merial and local suppliers Bisset Honda and Dannevirke Honda for their support of this promotion. Please see the back page of this issue for our next Merial promotion, which is of course, is a Christmas ham with selected drench purchases.



## Sheep measles

Rachael Fouhy

Taranaki and Manawatu regions have a very high incidence (over 40 farms in each district!) of sheep measles.

Sheep measles is the common name for the intermediate stage of a tapeworm parasite *Cysticercus ovis*. Sheep health is not affected but the presentation of the carcass, which risks trimming and/or rejection by some markets, is. Prevent sheep measles by:

- 1. Regular worming** - Use Droncil® every three months. On properties that have identified sheep measles issues in dogs also worm them monthly with Droncil®.
- 2. Prevent scavenging** - Scavenging allows the lifecycle to continue. Bury or remove dead stock ASAP.
- 3. Outside dogs** - Ensure dogs entering your property have been wormed at least three days BEFORE they arrive. This includes pets and/or hunting dogs!
- 4. Correct meat handling** - All meat fed to dogs needs to be correctly handled to kill any cysts. Freeze at -10°C for at least seven days prior to feeding, and cook ALL offal.

[See our website for the full story!](#)

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## Looking ahead

Potential animal health issues, tasks to consider and reminders for November and December include:

### Dairy

- **Clinical mastitis** - monitor cows and be aware of rising bulk milk somatic cell count particularly if using relief milkers over the holiday period
- Lameness - may become an issue as ground hardens so monitor cows daily - **article P3**
- Book in for **early pregnancy scanning** - ideally six weeks after end of AI
- Continue excellent **bull management** - remove lame or sick bulls ASAP
- Ensure excellent **weaner management** - drench regularly, weigh to monitor growth rates, potential trace mineral supplementation, allocate adequate good quality pasture particularly if hot dry weather - **article P4**

## The buttons are dropping!

Hamish Pike

With deleveting just around the corner now is the time to assess the state of your deer shed and associated facilities. Consider handler safety, stag welfare and product (velvet) hygiene.

Protrusions like gate hinges, gudgeons, bolts/nails/wires should be cut flush where practicable to avoid injury. Ensure yard/shed floor surfaces enable secure footing, are clean with minimal mud and dust, and have adequate drainage.

Sheds also require adequate ventilation and light. Stags exposed to ambient temperatures greater than 22°C during deleveting may suffer from heat stress. The risk primarily exists during deleveting, when stags are sedated with xylazine, but problems can also occur afterwards. Even when reversal is used sedated stags may fail to seek shade and, if they happen to sit down in an exposed area of the paddock, they can quickly become heat stressed which is likely to be fatal.

Early morning, when it is generally cool, or later in the afternoon, when the stag has the entire evening to recover, are the best times to delevet. Ideally stags should be drafted into mobs weekly as they drop their buttons. Mob size should be relative to the facility



size as most stress and potential for damage to velvet occurs through overcrowding in the yards, particularly at first yarding. Once drafted, stags should be left alone to settle. All those not to be deleveted should be released. However if there is only one stag to do then try and leave a companion with him.

Following velvet removal and reversal from the sedative, stags should be released to a nearby paddock with good water supply and a cool shady area for the observation/recovery period.

Check the stags within one hour after deleveting and at regular intervals thereafter. Look out for stags lying on their sides, excessive bleeding (spurting for more than 30 minutes after tourniquet removal), prolonged lack of alertness, continued wide based stance or unsteady gait, laboured breathing and bloat. If your observations can not be quickly rectified, such as by applying a tourniquet or getting the stag to his feet, then call your vet immediately..

**Have a great season.**

## Sheep and Beef

- **Barbers pole** - weather depending, sheep may need specific drenching for this parasite sooner rather than later. Signs include pale gums, depressed, exercise intolerant, increased breathing
- If not done already, book in for beef cow **pregnancy testing**
- **Ram preparations** - plan and book in ram palpations, Brucellosis testing and organise teasers
- **Ewes at weaning** - monitor body condition and udders

- **Lambs at weaning** - parasite management, vitamin B12 testing, fly strike control

## Equine

- **Ryegrass staggers** - signs include temperament and neurological changes (increased sensitivity to stimuli, wobbly gait etc)
- **Allergic airway disease** - signs include dry cough, rubbing of nose/head, discharge from eyes/nose, fast breathing with increased effort

- Maintain sport horses on **joint supplements** such as NV Halo Injection or Equinate™ Injection if ground is hard
- Continue regular **drenching of young animals**, particularly yearlings - as a general rule treat six weekly through to the end of summer

## Deer

- Plan preparations for velvetting - **article P2**

# Hoof health in dairy cows

Joao Dib

Dairy cow production relies on many things - weather, husbandry, nutritional management, farm layout and freedom from disease just to mention a few! Animal health is a key factor in any system and one of the main potential issues is that of lameness.

The onset of sudden (acute) lameness is likely to be of great concern to the farmer and it has significant welfare implications, as pain can go from mild to severe within a very short time frame. A severely lame animal will lose weight, stop cycling and milk production will decrease significantly.

So what can be done to have hoof health in tip-top shape?

### PREVENTION AND DETECTION

- Train all operators on all aspects of accurate detection, such as learning how cows move individually as compared to how they move as a herd. Additionally train them on how to move the herd to avoid excess pressure and complications that occur as a consequence should this happen.

- Look at the layout of races, surface condition, yard access/entry point and list all possible shortcomings. Discuss those with an expert and make a plan for correcting them over time.
- Identify cows with very poor conformation and chronic lameness problems and, if culling policies allow, cull them.

### TREATMENT

- Prompt treatment is key to recovery. Try not to wait to build up numbers before attempting treatment. The longer the wait, the more weight she will lose, the sharper the production loss, the worse the condition and the poorer her welfare!
- Know how to treat properly. Seek and obtain training and advice. Most lameness, if tackled early will not require antibiotics (90% plus will be treated without use of antibiotics). Using cowslips or any other hoof block will also be likely to significantly improve the speed of recovery.
- Most importantly, have good restraint facilities. Adequate facilities, be it a WOOPER or a WRANGLER restraining frame, or simply a sturdy home built arrangement, is essential. It WILL improve the efficiency and speed of treatment and minimise injury to operator and the animal. Again, human and animal welfare are improved significantly. If at all possible an out-of-the-weather treatment set up, away from the rain and wind, is ideal.
- Have sharp knives, good ropes, gloves and wrist protectors to minimise self-injury.



- Minimise walking of a cow that is in recovery and give her top quality feed. She will thank you for that by a more speedy recovery, both from a lameness and production point of view.

**We are keen to help you, both on a practical and/or advisory level, regarding lameness and hoof health issues. We really like cows and think that improving their welfare will greatly improve the lives of the people that take daily care of them, so don't hesitate to give us a call.**

# Weaner calf health

Cormac Chalmers

Replacement heifers are the genetic future and need to be managed well in order for them to reach target weights, get in calf, and have a successful life within a herd.

Weaning is a delicate time in a calf's life with the change in feed commonly causing a check in their growth. Calves need to be eating a minimum of one and a half kilos of meal before they are weaned which should be continued for at least one month post weaning, potentially longer if coccidiosis is, or has been, an issue. Successful weaning is based on calf weight (using scales is best as compared to weight tape as compared to using age or guess work!). Dairy New Zealand (DNZ) targets are set at 80-110kg for friesians and 65-85kg for jersey calves.



Regular (at least every three months) weighing is essential for monitoring growth post weaning. Target live weights are 30% mature live weight at six months of age, 60% at 15 months, and 90% at 22 months. Poor growth rates may be the first indicator that something else is going on.

Parasitism is at the top of the potential problem list. Follow a regular drenching program using an appropriate (specific to individual farms but in general is an oral combination) drench. Additionally try to have weaners on 'safe' pastures until winter to minimise exposure to worms. Running weaners in front of the milkers is a way

to give them the best quality grass while allowing the adult cows to help manage worms left behind. Another option is to set stock at two to three weaners per paddock on the home farm. A third option is running weaners at a run-off block, however this is less than ideal as it runs the risk that they may be monitored less frequently and there is reduced opportunity for adult cattle to help control worm burden.

**If you would like any further information or help putting together a plan for weaner management then give us a call.**

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\* WITH QUALIFYING PURCHASES WHILE STOCKS LAST. PROMO ENDS 22/12/15

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