

## Another Spring Done and Dusted

Well done - we have survived spring! Has been a busy spring for us with a good mix of preventative and ambulatory work over the last few months. Heading into mating cows are in pretty good nic across the district and the timely rain should tick things along nicely for the next few weeks.

The die is largely cast for mating, in this issue we will focus on some key animal health issues in the young stock along with a couple of other key reminders.

## Young Stock—Key Animal Health Treatments

It is always a relief to get the calves out of shed and weaned. The intensive work phase is over for these girls, but as you know the focus remains on growing them at a constant growth rate from now till first mating. Managing feed quality and grazing lengths is arguably the most important aspects of this. Alongside managing/maximizing intakes, there are few things from an animal health aspect we need to be on top of:

### Worm Management

Never underestimate the importance and impact of internal parasites on weaner growth rates. One aspect of worm management is the use of the right drench at the right time, the other key part is managing how many larvae our calves actually eat per day (larval challenge).

Use of combination drenches is key for helping prevent drench resistance (and effectively kill partially resistant worms). Oral triple combinations are the gold standard, however there are some limitations with the use of abamectin in younger calves a high risk for toxicity (always check the label re the safe drenching range).

Traditional double combination oral products (Arrest C, Oxfen C Plus) are great and on most farms achieve very good kill in young calves when used appropriately. We should drench every 28 days with these oral products.

When animals become a little harder to handle, or there are concerns about how effectively we are getting the oral drench down the throat it is good to move to double combination pour on or injectable drenches (Boss, Eclipse). These products have the additional benefit of a bit of persistent activity against incoming larvae, and have a good kill on the inhibited (type 2) ostertagia larvae - an important consideration heading into winter. We should drench with these products every 42 days up until mid winter—after that drenches can be spaced out a little further as the animals immunity really kicks in and larval challenge drops.





## Lepto / Clostridial Vaccinations

Preventing establishment of lepto infection in our young stock is a really important aspect of managing the lepto risk to ourselves. Use of Ultravac 7 in 1 has the advantage of providing protection for the 5 common Clostridial diseases—something that claims a number of calves every year across the district.

Calves should receive their first shots of 7 in 1 no later than 8-10 weeks of age, with a booster 1mth later. This year we are trialing our computer reminder system to help you keep track of this important event.

## Trace Elements

While on milk powder, meal and a bit of grass the likelihood of having trace element deficiencies is pretty small. When we transition them onto the grass based diet we can run into issues. Every property is different so have with us to make sure you are covering the bases. Generally the Tasman region is low in Selenium and regular supplementation is indicated. Selovin LA is a long acting selenium product that lasts up to 12 months—helps cut down on how many 'jabs' the girls get. Have a chat to us about whether this might be suitable for your property.

We recommend liver biopsies in young stock heading into their first Autumn so we can tailor copper supplementation correctly—this is something we will raise again in the new year.

## OTHER KEY REMINDERS / REFRESHERS

### Mastitis

Remember we now have our in house milk sample incubator. This runs over 24hrs and delivers a bacteria ID + how sensitive the bacteria is to the commonly used antibiotic classes (used at different strengths). We have some interesting findings from this so far, and the information will help us make far better decisions not only for treatment of clinical mastitis, but also around dry off treatments.

Remember also to apply the same level of teat prep hygiene to lactation intramammaries as we do to dry cow / teatseal applications - may just help cut down on recurrent mastitis cases.

### Bull Mating

Just a couple of points to remember:

- Use at appropriate rates—got to have the right bull power! 3% + 1.
- If you can, train them to stay in the paddock
- Rotate bull teams—give the boys a rest
- Ensure BVD blood tested (antigen negative, as in not carriers) and vaccinated with two doses of BVD vaccine finishing at least 2 weeks prior to use.
- Watch the bull behavior—look out for the bullies!





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