

FARM VET NEWS

MARCH 2011



Page 1: Dry Cow Consults

Page 2: Minerals

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Staff News:

Having finished the Rotorua Half Ironman Matt thought he would give the Auckland Half IM a go this month, best of luck.

From the editor

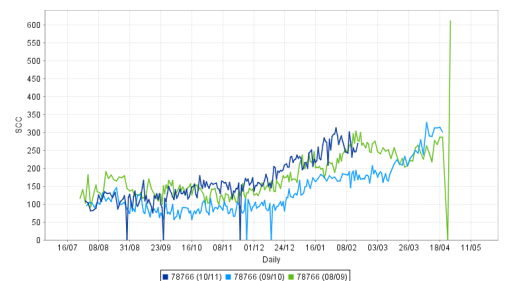
We are gearing up again for the Cateye Moonride. Last year we had Dave Schmidt, Dave Barrowman, Mark and Matt riding with a few other one lap riders. This year we invite any farmers who wish to ride to contact Mark.



I also want to take this opportunity to send the clinics best wishes and condolences to those in Christchurch and Japan suffering with the effects of the earthquakes and Tsunami. We all have friends and relatives who are affected. Kirsty, who used to work here is ok but has been evacuated due to boulders threatening her house.
(Matt Fiskien Editor)

Dry Cow Consults

Once again it is time to be thinking about drying the cows off and that means purchasing dry cow therapy. To do this you will need a dry cow consult which ensures you get the correct dry cow that meets your specific needs, and to ensure it is used properly. We also offer a milk quality programme where we can help with your bulk milk cell count and any mastitis or inhibitory issues you may have.



To complete a dry cow consult ideally bring with you your Bulk Milk Somatic Cell count graph from the Fonterra Website. It is found in the Production Records section and you will have to change the measure button to SCC and the Plot by button to days. This is the most important piece of information because it can highlight any early season trends or problems and also late in the season as milk volume drops it can show bulk milk somatic cell count problems.

You can also bring down any herd test results, including the summary page.

Should you wish we can go further in-depth we can do a milk quality investigation.
(Mark Anderson)

Sheep and beef section

Get your beef herd pregnancy tested to ensure that you are only carrying productive cows over the winter. Requirements are that the bull has been removed from the cows for at least six weeks.

It pays to provide zinc to animals to prevent facial eczema, as the spore count gets higher. We have Time Capsules for ewes and adult cattle. Face-Guard has proved popular for calves. Other-wise drenching with zinc or putting zinc sulphate in water supplies can help, but with dry stock when compared to dairy cattle they do not drink as much water and so this is a less effective method of prevention.

Eclipse is a great pour on drench for weaned beef calves as it is a dual combination drench and has an especially good action against Cooperia which can be more prevalent in the autumn period.

(Fraser Abernethy)

Minerals over the late summer/autumn period.

The late summer/autumn period is an important time to keep up mineral levels in cows. Zinc can limit the uptake of copper, which can lead to a fall in liver copper levels.

Get the current mineral status of your cows by either liver testing cull cows at the works or liver biopsies and/or blood samples of milking cows. The main benefit of liver testing is that it shows the actual reserves of copper. As copper levels generally fall in winter it is important to go into winter with adequate reserves.

We have included liver testing forms with this newsletter should you wish to test cull cows.

Understanding the udder

The Vet Club is hosting a workshop for the Dairy Women's Network on Tuesday, April 19. This will provide practical information about the udder, including a look inside one to see how it works, grows, and metabolises intra-mammary treatments.



The Dairy Women's Network is a National Trust whose purpose is to help women who are actively involved in the business of dairying to be more successful.

Autumn planner

Just when you thought you could take things easy

We are just as busy now, if not busier than spring time. There is plenty to do this month....

- Pregnancy test your herd. We can leptovaccinate the cows at the same time.
- Vaccinate calves and heifers for leptovacc and 7 in 1
- Monitor spore counts. Use faceguard to prevent Facial Eczema in calves. Keep up zinc dosing to cows. We have seen outbreaks of eczema this year, prevention is the best option.
- Get your Dry Cow Consultation completed.
- One for the Deer Farmers—Return your Velvetting books.
- Review the results of pregnancy testing, see what went well and what needs improving for next year.
- Use a good combination drench such as Eclipse for replacement animals.
- Consider drenching younger cows and heifers in your milking herd with Eprinex, this can help maintain liveweight in autumn and allow you to milk longer.

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