

# FARM VET NEWS

OCTOBER 2011



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

## Veterinarians:

### Rotorua

Craig Kusabs  
Fraser Abernethy  
Thomas Taylor  
Gus Condie

### Reporoa

Mark Anderson  
Mike Beavon  
Mathew Fiskien

### Ngongotaha

Rachel Anderson

### Small Animal Vets

Stacey Tremain  
Edith Brascamp  
Chris McKenzie  
David Barrowman  
Anna Goodman

## Staff News:

Gus and his wife Jules are finishing this month and will be taking time to holiday in New Zealand before going back to England for Christmas. They will be sadly missed.

## “SHE’LL BE RIGHT MATE” REPRODUCTION WORKSHOP

This was held on the 29th September in Reporoa with Fraser, Matt, Steve Carroll and Wilma Foster giving informative presentations.

Topics covered included the following:

**Bull management** by Wilma and how to calculate how many bulls you need after AB has finished, it depends on how successful AB submission rates have been and the length of AB. With poor submission rates and a short duration of AB, you need an awful lot of bull power accompanied!

**Body condition scoring** by Matt. The take home part from this is that cows should be at least a BCS 4 now and increasing from now till mating finishes. If they aren't then do something about it.

**Tips on detecting cycling cows** were given by Steve Carroll, and his take home point was observation in the paddock, at the shed and having a good system for recording these and then to make sure they are drafted out.

**Finally, different treatments of anoestrus cows**, by Fraser and how to maximize the benefits of CIDR's usage.

A Special thanks to Phil & Dianne Herdman for the use of their farm, and to our guest speakers Steve Carroll (farmer) & Wilma Foster (Dairy NZ) for their time.

This was a great day with plenty of tips & tricks for this coming mating season, and a BBQ burger to help digest all the information.



Congratulations to Mark and Rachel who have just had their second child. It all happened while Rachel was visiting her parents in Wellington with Holly. After a 1.5hr labour a 2.5kg healthy girl was born at Wellington Hospital just before 10pm on Thurs 22nd Sept 2011. She has been called Sarah Jessie Anderson. Best of luck guys!

On a side note, this was not well planned as Mark called Matt at 9 PM and asked if he could finish his night on call as he had to drive to Wellington in a hurry.



## Heifers and Calves

- At the end October we will be offering calf vaccination runs for leptospirosis/7 in 1. We will give you a call to organise this.
- Don't forget to drench milking heifers pre-mating (ideally with Eprinex)
- BVD vaccinate your yearlings pre-mating.



## Weigh Scales

We have our weigh scales up and running, ready for hiring. It is important to ensure your yearling weights are up to standard for mating, As this is the most important factor in getting them in calf early. Other important management factors include ensuring they are drenched, and their mineral management is up to date.

A good combination drench coming out of winter is ideal (i.e. Eclipse Pour on or Eclipse -E injection).

Ensure your mineral status of Selenium, B12 and Copper is adequate, and talk to us about the best supplement options for your herd.



## Salmonella

Within the last month, The Vet Club has experienced a number of Salmonella outbreaks on our farms. The majority have not previously had Salmonella. The severity can range from a just a few cows affected to up to 20% of the herd. Other Vet clinics have also reported Salmonella outbreaks in Tokoroa, South Waikato and the South Island.

The effects of this outbreak has been massive on some farms through lost milk production, dead cows and large requirements of antibiotics. The infected cows need to be run in a separate herd (to minimise the spread) and take a lot of your valuable time to treat and care for.

Salmonella is a gut bacteria. Some cows that have previously been infected can be carriers, and in periods of stress will shed the bacteria in their faeces infecting other cows. These carrier cows usually won't show signs of the disease until they start shedding the bacteria.

Stress can increase the severity of the disease progression, e.g. just calved cows, cows in full milk or at drying off. At these times the salmonella can have more effects and spread faster. This disease is affected by environmental factors, cow factors and disease factors, (so severity of symptoms can range accordingly).

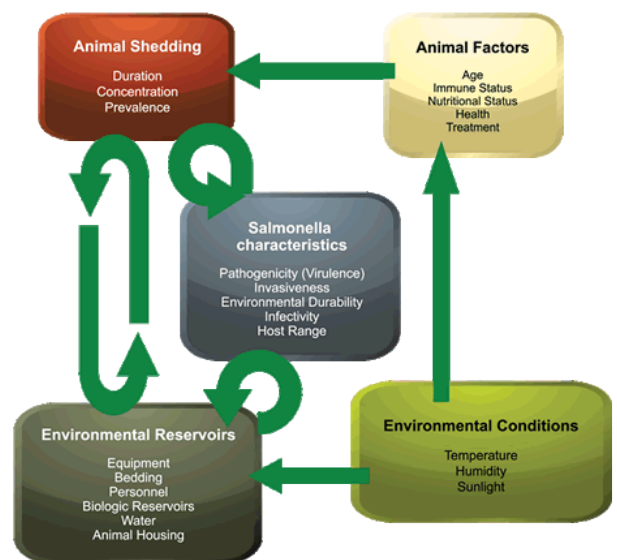
Symptoms of salmonella include scours with blood in the faeces, severely dehydrated cows (which are not producing milk and are hollow gutted), inappetance and generally look very sick. Vaccination with Salvexin can help lessen the impact of this disease by preventing it or by lessening both the severity of symptoms and number of cows affected.



In the face of an outbreak vaccination is recommended, but this is less effective than preventative vaccinating. The vaccination protocol is two injections 4 weeks apart, however if an outbreak occurs this is shortened to 2 weeks and if you neighbour an infected farm then it can be shortened to 3 weeks.

With the farmers that we have seen, and the resultant effects on their business we recommend vaccination. It is cheap and can prevent or greatly lessen any potential affects of salmonella on your farm.

## Salmonella Dynamics on the Farm



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