



Dairy News

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Dry cow

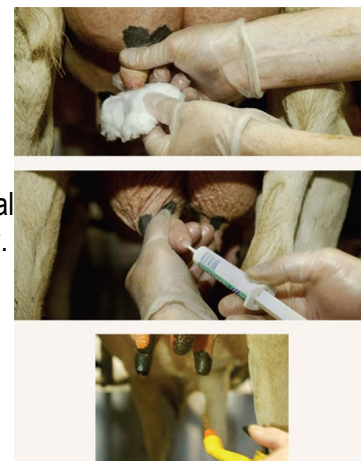
By now you should all have your dry cow consults done with Joe. Some of you may have already started to dry some cows off. If you need your dry cow early give the clinic a call.

Hygiene

Have a good process set up for ensuring tubes are kept clean and once cleaned that the teat is not brushed with a dirty tail or arm. Working quickly and confidently helps with hygiene so inexperienced team members may require a bit of extra support with cow restraint, training or verbal encouragement. Inserting tubes immediately after cups come off without cleaning the teats is risky. Best practice recommendations exist around diluted methylated spirits soaked cotton balls or supplied wipes for preparing the teat for insertion.

Part insertion of intramammary tubes (no more than 2-3mm) reduces the potential for damage to the teat canals and bacteria to be carried on up into the teat. Wearing clean disposable gloves ensures the risk of bacteria transfer between cows is low and makes it easier to clean hands between cows. With gloves though they should be changed regularly.

A warm bucket of teat spray mix and clean paper towels is an easy way to sterilize and dry hands between cows for optimal hygiene. (***Don't wash your hands in the bucket but liberally splash water over each hand to stop the liquid in the bucket becoming a contaminated soup mix***) After dry cow or teat seal has been applied, effective teat spraying with a quality product is important.



Trace Element Testing

The autumn dry-off period is an ideal window of opportunity for trace element supplementation, ensuring your cows come through winter in excellent condition.

Copper is another important trace element and deficiency is a known problem in winter due to stock being on brassica crops. Liver levels are the only way to accurately measure an animal's copper reserves accurately. Liver biopsies are easy and safe to do from a cross selection of 5 animals from the herd. Also very effective in young stock.

A blood test from a mob of 10 cows testing for B12 and selenium levels answers some of these questions.

Also remembering it is a really good idea to also have bloods or liver biopsies done for copper levels on your R1's and R2's Pre and post winter grazing.

Potential Nitrate Poisoning

RISK FACTORS

- feeding certain feeds such as new grass, sorghum, brassicas, tamo and oats.
- rapid growth of these feeds during periods of warm, wet, overcast conditions, especially after a dry spell.
- sometimes these risky feeds can still be fed out but with **CARE!!!!**



DO NOT feed risky feeds first thing in the morning.

- nitrate levels will increase overnight.
- sunlight helps to reduce nitrate levels during the day, so they are safer to feed later in the day.

DO NOT feed risky feed on an empty stomach.

- quickly-eaten risky feed is more dangerous.
- if the feed mixes with other food, the risk is reduced.

DO NOT feed risky feed for a long period during the day.

DO check the nitrate level of risky feed before starting to feed it out.

- nitrate testing kits are available.

DO feed the stock other feed such as hay or other grass in the morning, so there is already other food in the gut.

DO wait till early afternoon to feed the risky feed.

DO leave the stock on the risky feed for NO MORE THAN 1 AND A HALF TO 2 HOURS.

DO keep an eye on the stock after feeding risky feeds.

- symptoms of nitrate poisoning are usually apparent within 3-4 hours of feeding.

DO call the clinic IMMEDIATELY if you see any sign of poisoning.

- cows can die very quickly.
- they usually become lethargic, show respiratory distress, go down and become bloated.
- the blood often appears a brown colour.
- early treatment with an antidote will prevent the stock from dying.

Lepto Reminder

Herd heifer and young stock lepto shots are now due, call the clinic if you need to book this in.



Calves - Vaccinate early from 4-6 weeks of age before the calf has the chance to become Infected.

Yearlings - need to be vaccinated at the same time as the breeding herd to maintain protection from their calf vaccination.

Breeding cows - Annual revaccination aims to protect the cow from infertility and abortion related To leptospirosis and protect her new born calf from becoming infected in utero. Newborn calves will also be protected via maternal antibodies.

Rotavec Reminder

Rotavec corona needs to be administered to cows 3 weeks before start of calving. For any information please call the clinic.



Young stock - Drench and Copper

Drenching frequency can be reduced over the winter but Autumn is still a high risk period for parasites. If there are any concerns call the clinic we are happy to discuss a drench plan for you. This can be a good time to check copper levels in young stock as well.



***Eclipse special
While stocks last
ring the clinic for a
promo price.***



Roger's Gone Walkabout!

After 30 years Roger has headed off on his big OE. Lets hope he doesn't come home with too many tattoo's or piercings!

Introducing Sarah-Jane (Spud)

Hi I am from Canvastown, I live on a small lifestyle block with my husband Matt and 2 sons Josh 7 Ben 4 + all our Animals. For the past 17 years I have been Dairy farming in Canvastown Managing the farm for the last 10 years. I have also worked for LIC for 10 years as an AB technician + Field assist role helping farmers with their Minda records and DNA testing. In my spare time I enjoy riding my horses or spending time in the outdoors hunting and fishing with my family . I look forward to joining the team at Town & Country Vet and the new challenges this role will bring.

