

BVD Reminder
-getting prepared for mating

BVD continues to be an issue on New Zealand farms whether you know it, like it or care to think about. It is costing the New Zealand dairy industry untold amounts as a result of not only poor reproductive performance in cows, but increased illness in both calves and adult cows, reduced growth rates in calves (up to 20% decrease in ADG in an American study, albeit in a feedlot production system) and poor bull fertility. The persistently infected animal (P.I) is the key to BVD control. The early identification and removal of these animals is one of the strategies, typically with testing of calves at 35 days plus.

Calves cannot become PIs after birth, so a non PI status is a status they keep for life.

So instead of looking at testing as a cost, look at it as an investment.

Although PIs are the most important element, transient infections are still an issue. Calves infected late in gestation will clear the infection but there is increasing anecdotal evidence that these infections can impact on the future performance of these animals, and may contribute to the ill thrift complex often seen in calves. Vaccination is the other part of the control equation. The ideal vaccination regime will have all animals vaccinated annually prior to PSM. All heifers need to be dosed twice, 4 weeks apart around a month prior to PSM. The aim of vaccination is to protect the fetus from viral infection, thus limiting the risk of PI creation, congenital malformations and embryonic loss/abortion. A key point is that vaccination will have no effect on PI animals.

No vaccine is 100% effective and as such should be used as part of the control strategy, not as the sole entity. Reducing exposure of animals by removing PIs will be of benefit regardless of whether they are vaccinated or not. Vaccination protects against things that are sometimes out of your control, such as contact with neighbouring stock, wandering bulls etc. Testing and vaccination of bulls is a non-negotiable. If a bull has not been tested and vaccinated, it should not be allowed on your property. Don't assume anything, ask your bull provider for evidence that these have been performed.

Vaccination of bulls should be completed 6 weeks prior to mating to ensure that sperm quality is not affected (just in case vaccination causes a fever that kills sperm that then require 6 weeks to regenerate) BVD control is **easy**, all you have to do is test all your calves, test all incoming stock, vaccinate annually prior to mating, test and vaccinate bulls. There is

BVD continued

obviously expense in performing these tasks and what measures you wish to take, if any, will be influenced by how much of an issue you consider BVD to be in your herd

If you're not testing however, then you will never really know, and will never discover the benefits of control.

A recent study, as yet unpublished, has evaluated the benefit of different control strategies in terms of economic return. The bottom line is that any form of control is better than nothing. If you didn't test your bulls last year, test and vaccinate them this year. If you didn't test your replacement calves last year, do it this season. Making improvements annually will help ease the pain and will eventually lead to a tried and tested strategy, tailor made for your property.

The vets at the clinic are up with the play on current testing strategies best suited to your enterprise and are willing and able to aid **your** control programme.

Justin Hogg BVSc



Cattle Reminders

- Magnesium supplementation
- Yearlings-worm drench
- Vitamin A,D,E to milk fever prone cows
- Worm cows post calving
- Inductions (maximum 4% of herd)
- Booster dose BVD vaccine to heifers
- Monitor conditions post calving
- Blood test bulls for BVD & vaccinate

Sheep Reminders

- Order lambing requirements
- Blood test ewes metabolic profile
- FEC ewes
- Vaccinate ewes against clostridial disease
- Reassess ewe feed levels
- Vitamin E and selenium to brassica fed hoggets
- Assess spring feed budget
- Drench ewes with iodine
- Anthelmintic treatment of ewes
- Ensure PAR/RVM authorisation is current

1. Staff comment, situation comment and uterine infections post calving
2. Pre-lamb drenching, what was your F.I., vitamin E, iodine, NSVets biggest loser
3. Preparing to breed your mare
4. BVD reminder

Situation Comment

NEWSFLASH We have our first case of Salmonella Brandenburg diagnosed. Talk to us!!

NEWSFLASH Also very high worm burdens have been diagnosed for this time of year. Worm control strategies need to be reviewed. The mild wet weather has certainly contributed.

A welcome to those new to the area. We were overwhelmed by the positive response to the winter dairy training series which was oversubscribed many times over. It is great that this is happening. Special thanks to all involved in organising.

Calving has already started for many and with lambing just around the corner we have a full range of supplies for both at our clinics.

Staff Comment

Unfortunately we are saying farewell for now to Janelle who is due to have her baby shortly. We wish her, Lance and Cooper all the best at this exciting time. We will really miss the colourful diary that she controls with an iron-fist and hope that our timeliness doesn't slip without her urgings?? Best of luck Janelle. Also Shelly will be heading off on her O.E. in September to North America and the UK. We are sure she will be very successful on her travels and hope to see her when she returns. We hope to be able to announce a replacement shortly.

Janelle will be replaced by Ashleigh Wilson who we are delighted to welcome to our team.

Danielle Walker has also joined the team in Te Anau in a part time role due to the increased workload there. She is already settling in well.

Pet Reminders

- Check teeth and clip nails
- Flea prevention
- Check for signs of unexpected pregnancy in cats
- Maintain grooming in long haired cats and dogs

Uterine Infections Post Calving

Bacterial contamination of the uterus is present for the first week post calving in around 90% of cows. The outcome of this contamination depends on a number of factors. The following factors predispose to the development of uterine infections:

- Retained fetal membranes
- Late term abortions
- Twins
- Assisted calvings (especially when you are not clean!)
- Inductions
- Underfed cows

Metritis: An infection in the uterus which makes the cow systemically sick and which can lead to anything from **mild depression to death.**

This is a cause of those really sick, often down cows you see around calving. These cows need immediate veterinary attention. They will require antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and fluid therapy.

Endometritis: An infection in the uterus which does not make the cow sick, but which can **affect fertility.**

Spontaneous cure occurs in 30-40% of cases in the first 2-3 weeks post calving. The condition is diagnosed by **metrichecking the herd 4 weeks post calving.** This involves a vet taking samples of vaginal fluid- any that contain pus will be treated with antibiotics infused directly into the uterus (metricured). Trials have shown a 15% improvement in the 6 weeks in-calf rate when compared with untreated, metricheck positive cows. The longer the time between metricuring and mating, the better the chances of full recovery of uterine tissues. For this reason, many farmers opt to metricheck their herd in 2-3 separate batches for early and late calvers.

Natasha Leamy BVSc



2015 NSVets Calendar

In 2015 it will be the 50th anniversary of the Northern Southland Vet Club. We would appreciate any photos you have that may have involving any of the staff from the past 50 years to include in our calendar. Email fiona@nsvs.co.nz



Pre-lamb Drenching

Every time we drench we may be selecting for resistance. We need to be avoiding high risk practices, maintaining refugia, and using effective combination products.

Wormwise has identified drenching adult ewes a risk factor for developing resistance. The use of long acting products pre-lamb is regarded as **high risk**.

If we must drench pre-lamb try to treat only those that need it most and think carefully about which product you will use. Consider...

- Age (hogget >2th>MA),
- Number of lambs (triplet>twin>single),
- BCS (light>heavy)
- FEC
- Feed availability along with other management practices.



There is no one size fits all solution for parasite control. Each farm is different and each year is different. Don't be afraid to nut this out with one of our vets. Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

What was your Fertility Index(FI)?

FI = scanning % ÷ average weight pre-tup.
Most breeders or rams have an associated FI which can be used to predict your scanning percentage. You can use this information next year to predict your scanning...

Av. Weight pre-tup x FI = Predicted scanning %.
If figures don't add up it needs investigating.



Vitamin E:

Give vitamin E for lamb vigour and survival especially if ewes were fed on brassicas, hay and silage. Best given around two weeks pre-lamb. VetLSD is our gold standard oral supplement. Beware of the cheaper imitations and questionable label claims.



Iodine:

Ewes need iodine to assist with lamb survival. If Flexidine wasn't used within the last 8 months consider oral supplementing pre-lamb. If you are unsure if iodine deficiency is an issue on your farm talk to us now. Don't miss the boat! The ultimate test is by measuring thyroid to bodyweight ratios in dead lambs this year so we can make better informed decisions before mating next season.



Lambing Kit:

- Disinfectant
- Lubricant
- Penicillin
- Iodine spray
- Metabolic bags (for milk fever)
- Ketol for (sleepy sickness)
- Mothering up aids
- Sprayline
- Woolovers



NSVet's Biggest Loser!

Congratulations to Ted Humphries! Ted has been enrolled in our Pet Slimmer programme and gone from a whopping 46kg to 35kg, losing over 10kg!! Ted has a visible waist and is feeling more energetic now he is at his target weight. Ted has been fed a premium weight loss food, has been exercising more and having weekly weigh ins at the clinic. Well done to Ted and his dedicated owners.

Obesity is a disease that can have many negative health effects on your pet's health. Obesity is known to **decrease life expectancy**. It is associated with a number of negative side effects including degenerative arthritis, skin disease, diabetes, pancreatitis, tracheal collapse and fatty liver disease to name just a few. We run a **free** Pet Slimmer programme, come in and see our lovely nurse Michelle for a free consult if you are worried about your pet's weight. We can work together to get your pet to their target weight. Rebecca Morley BVSc BSc

Before and after photos of Ted



Preparing To Breed Your Mare

Mares are long day breeders which means as the daylight hours increase mares begin to cycle. In Southland the optimal time to be breeding mares is from late October until mid February. Starting early means you have a better chance of getting your mare in foal.

There are several things to consider when preparing for the upcoming breeding season with your mare. First of all your mare needs to be suitable for breeding. If your mare has had foals before then she will most likely be a good candidate, however age can begin to affect fertility. Fertility declines at around 15 years of age. A young, healthy mare has a 50-60% chance of becoming pregnant each cycle whereas an older mare may have a 30-40% or less chance each cycle.

An aged mare that has recently had a foal has a greater chance of becoming pregnant again than a mare of similar age that has not had a foal. Older, maiden mares are common in the sport horse industry because they compete to a greater age than racehorses do. Older, maiden mares are also more likely to have problems foaling.

A breeding soundness examination will determine whether your mare is a good candidate to breed from. This can be done either at the clinic or on farm with the correct facilities. An examination involves examination of the vulva and cervix and ultrasound examination of the uterus.

Once you have chosen your mare you need to decide which method you are going to use to get her in foal, either natural service or artificial insemination (AI). Natural service involves the mare going to the stud to be serviced by the stallion. In comparison AI is when semen is transported and can be inserted into the mare at a different location. Semen can be sent to a local stud or the vet clinic for artificial insemination. AI opens up the options for stallions available to breeders. We offer an AI service at the clinic as does two large stud farms local to our Riversdale clinic.

For your mare to have the greatest chance of getting in foal she also needs to be in optimal health. Body condition score, parasite management, trace element status and vaccination are all areas which need to be addressed.

Body condition is an important factor for mares to cycle regularly. Mares that are too skinny or too fat will not cycle properly, decreasing the chance of getting in foal. Mares need to be in good body condition before the start of breeding season. Selenium is an important trace element for fertility and this can be assessed by a blood test. A selenium supplement programme can then be advised after blood results are received.

Brood Mares cont.

A broodmare should be on a regular worming programme with faecal egg counts every three months and drenched on advice from these results.

Tetanus vaccination is important in mares being bred and also mares that are carrying foals. An up to date tetanus vaccination programme protects the mare as well as the foal when it is born.

Herpes virus is the leading infectious cause of abortion in New Zealand and can be vaccinated against. Please phone the clinic for more information on broodmare vaccines and any other questions you have regarding breeding your mare this coming season.

Megan Reidie BVSc



Horse Reminders

- Hoof care reminder
- Check for lice
- Boost pregnant mares diet
- Arrange brood mare consorts for coming season



Deer Reminders

- TB Test
- Pregnancy scanning
- Weaners—drench for lungworm
- Liver copper and selenium check dry hinds

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