

Practice Bulletin

This issue:

Page 1.
**Vet Search
Inductions 2014**

Page 2.
**Body Condition
Scoring
Dehorning
Lepto Vaccination**

Page 3.
**Free BEER!
2014 Mastitis Review
Cephalonium
Shortage
Drying off techs**

Page 4.
**New Product!
- Nexepirin
Boss Pour On**

Vet Search - Vet Idol - The Vet Factor?

As you will be aware, for quite some time we have been trying to recruit veterinarians to work at Vet4Farm. Keith Richards' description of Invercargill has not been helpful in attracting vets to beautiful, sunny Southland. Whilst recent graduate vets are available we are very aware that you prefer to have an experienced vet coming to your farm and providing you with advice... Unfortunately these are as rare as hens teeth in the job market! As a novel approach we have decided to enlist your help in our search... If you can introduce an experienced vet to Vet4Farm that we then employ...

We will give you your next year's veterinary services for FREE!

(*to the value of the previous year's expenditure)

Inductions 2014

The maximum induction rate per farm for 2014 has again been set at 4%. All inductions are now entered onto a national database in advance of the inductions taking place. This means you must complete your induction plan (with list of cows, ages, due dates) with us at least 60 days in advance of your first induction shot.

The 4% limit is also per farm, it is no longer permitted for the 4% to be spread over multiple farms with common ownership.

We have also been advised that one of the two suppliers of induction medications will no longer be bringing this drug into NZ, this means it is even more important for you to complete your plan with us early as we will order the medication for your farm early (on consignment) and set it aside so that you don't miss out!

Cull Cow Liver Samples

As we come to drying off there are inevitably a group of cows that are going to be going straight to the works. They still have one more important job that they can do for the herd...

Ensuring an adequate trace element status for the herd is crucial, especially for copper and selenium as we come into autumn and winter. Liver analysis gives us a much better idea of the long term situation with relation to storage levels of copper compared to blood testing. We can also measure selenium and Vitamin B12 levels at the same time.

Liver sampling at the meat works of cull cows is a convenient and accurate way of monitoring these levels. All that is required of you is to ensure that you fill in the request form and that the cows are easily identified as being from your farm.

Contact us at anytime for the required forms. A copy of the form will be enclosed in the April invoices.

Body Condition Scoring

Now is the time to start preparing your herd for next season! This means don't leave it until winter to try to put body condition back on light cows. Identify these cows now and either milk them once-a-day or dry them off if once-a-day is not sufficient to make progress.

When you are assessing body condition do it in conjunction with your pregnancy scanning data ie, if she is an early calving cow and borderline light condition then give her the benefit of the doubt and treat her as though she is a 0.5-1 body condition score lighter than reality.

When you are assessing body condition also take into account the age of the cow ie, if she is a first or second calving cow and borderline light body condition then give her the benefit of the doubt also.

Too often we see farmers chasing that last few kgs of milksolids whilst sacrificing the performance of the herd the next season. These are often the same farmers bemoaning their extended calving spread and the difficulties they are having getting their cows in calf.

*Be the master of your own **long term** success by taking action now and plan a great season for next season.*

We have trained technicians that can help you with body condition scoring. Their assessment is objective and sometimes it is a good idea to get a fresh pair of eyes on your herd.

Dehorning

Is your herd ready for transport for the winter?

Do you have cows with horns that shouldn't go on the truck?

Do you have cows bullying other cows with their horns?

*Vet4Farm technicians are trained to dehorn your cattle with wire or loppers including the use of local anaesthetic. **(local anaesthetic must be used when dehorning any animal over 9 months old)***

If your herd needs a tidy-up our technicians are a very cost effective way of achieving it. All you need to provide is a good set of yards with a sturdy headbail and a staff member to help secure the cows in the headbail, our technician will take care of the rest.

Leptospirosis vaccinations

A reminder to those farmers who have chosen to continue to vaccinate their herds at dry off to please order their vaccine in advance of requiring it as we are only carrying limited stocks outside of our peak Dec/Jan vaccination period.

Recent surveys show leptospirosis on about 30% of farms. This is due to calves not being vaccinated young enough. Spring born calves should be vaccinated in Nov/Dec. If the milking herd is vaccinated in December then they can wait until next December for their annual booster. If the herd is vaccinated in May the calves should receive a booster this May.

FREE BEER!

Wherever there is FREE Beer there is always a catch!

To receive a completely FREE Green Man Variety 15 pack of beer you need to do two simple things:

1. Get your Dry Cow consultation paperwork to us at least 3 days before your consultation.
2. Complete your Dry Cow consultation before the 3rd of April 2014.



2014 Mastitis Review

We will be conducting these reviews a little differently this year in that we will be considering your data in advance of sitting down with you. The advantage of this approach is that we don't waste your time by analysing your information while you wait and can "cut to the chase" immediately.

What this does mean is that we need you to get your information to us at least 3 days before your consultation (which we will conduct on farm if you would prefer to not come to our offices).

The email that this newsletter came with also has the form you need to complete for your Dry Cow Consultation / Mastitis Review. It is a simple form so please complete it and get it back to us as soon as possible. Please!

Cephalonium Shortage

Many of you will have become accustomed to using Cephaforte over recent years. Unfortunately this year due to a manufacturing/supply failure there will be no Cephaforte available. This means we will need to use some variations to your dry cow approach this year. There will be extremely limited supplies of Cephavin available as a similar alternative, or you can take advantage of some of the recent advances in dry cow research by considering combination therapy which is producing superior results to traditional medications for a great price. We can discuss our recommendations at your consultation!

Drying Off Technicians

One farmer's recollection of using Vet4Farm technicians to assist with drying off in 2013....

"It had been raining for weeks, the cows breathed through snorkels, Noah sailed away long ago, the pasture had disappeared under the mud, but still the cows needed to be dried off. And then it happened...

The skies cleared, the birds sang, the seas parted, and like angels from above the technicians from Vet4Farm arrived in our moment of need! It seemed we had barely boiled the kettle when drying off was complete and their halos shone in the sunbeams as they disappeared over the horizon to the next farmer in need."

If you would like a drying off experience like this (minus the rain) be sure to book early as demand will be hot!

New Product - NEXEPRIN Microject!

NEXEPRIN Microject is a brand new parasite treatment for cattle. It is brought to us by Alleva Animal Health, a New Zealand owned and operated company.

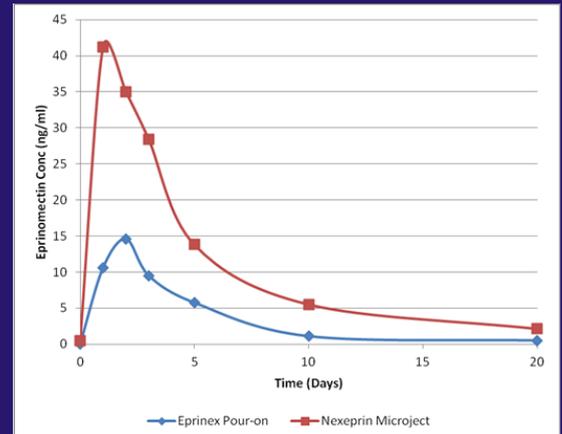
NEXEPRIN Microject is an injectable eprinomectin (the same active ingredient as in Eprinex Pour On) with some great features designed to make it easy to treat larger cattle, including lactating dairy cows. It has:

- ✓ A **1ml per 100kg** dose rate
- ✓ A **NIL** milk withholding
- ✓ A **14 day** meat withholding
- ✓ An extensive range of persistent activity claims
- ✓ A non-sting easy flow formulation
- ✓ A full dose of eprinomectin plus **Vitamin E**

When compared to a pour-on treatment NEXEPRIN Microject delivers much higher levels of eprinomectin into the blood. This can mean better parasite control for longer.

NEXEPRIN Microject is well worth a look if you are treating adult cows at dry-off, after calving or before mating.

For a limited time Alleva are also giving away a Morphy Richards Toaster or 1.5L kettle with every 2 x 500ml packs (enough for 200 x 500kg cows).



Boss Pour On Now Rain Resistant



Buying NEXEPRIN Microject is not the only way you can get one of these fantastic toasters or kettles! You can also get one by purchasing a 5L pack of Boss Pour On.

Boss Pour On is a dual abamectin/levamisole drench with an innovative DMI-Sorb 'liquid gel' formulation for superior absorption.

Boss Pour On is particularly suited to drenching R1s and R2s as the abamectin is highly effective against Ostertagia and the levamisole is highly effective against Cooperia.

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