CVC CLINIC NEWS

Welcome to the first CVC Dairy Newsletter of 2021!

At the moment most of our dairy clients are in the process of planning to their dry off. Dry cow and teat sealant are starting to move off the shelf. If you have any questions about the best approach to dry cow therapy in your herd please give us a call, our vets will be happy to discuss. In this months newsletter we look at some of the important components of preparing your cows for the dry period including the use of the Scourshield vaccine. We look forward to another great year for our CVC clients. As always if you have any questions about how we can help improve your production or animal health, please do not hesitate to call, we love to have a chat!

Camperdown Veterinary Centre

1 Leura Street , Camperdown

Ph: (03) 5593 1077

Hours:

- 8:00am – 5:30pm (Monday – Friday)
- 8:30am – 12:00pm (Saturday)

Dairy Drug Orders

Established dairy clients can request for non urgent drug orders to be delivered on farm. We will endeavour to deliver within 24 hours.

SUPER HOT SPECIAL!

Short dated (exp end of Feb 2021) Alamycin 10 now $12 per 100ml bottle or $35 per 300ml. Only while stocks last.

Yet to see new 250ml Alamycin bottles however our wholesalers say it should be available next month.

DRYING OFF

This time of year we should be thinking about our drying off strategy and what animal health and nutrition protocols we are going to use to optimise cow health, fertility and milk production during the next lactation.

After each lactation, require a dry period which is **sufficiently long to allow the udder tissue to involute** (shrink down), repair and rejuvenate. Many of the cells that produce milk are removed and replaced again before the next calving. **A minimum of 6 weeks – preferably 8 weeks –** is recommended between drying off and calving.

The cornerstone to ensuring your cows get a full 8 weeks off is early and **accurate pregnancy diagnosis**. Knowing your cows expected calving dates will ensure they have plenty of time to recover before their next lactation.

A good dry-off strategy should consider the following:

- Dry-cow intramammary anti-biotics
- Teat sealant
- Vaccinations
- Transition cow nutrition

If you have any questions regarding the best dry-off strategy for your herd, please do not hesitate to call the clinic we would love to have a chat!

TEAT SEALANT

Teat sealant is made of bismuth subnitrate and prevents vvinfection by forming a physical barrier in the teat canal. Teat seal is designed to prevent mastitis during the peripartu-rient period when heifer and cows teat canals are open and exposed to environmental pathogens. Teatsealing heifers, is common practise in NZ and is gradually being taken up by Australian dairy herds. Heifers are the most vulnerable members of the herd. Studies have shown that preventing mastitis in first lactation maximises potential future milk yield and longevity within the herd. Teat sealing is also recommended in systems where calving time mastitis is a problem or calving is anticipated to occur in wet areas with high mud or faecal contamination.

Teat seal needs to be administered 4-6 weeks before expected calving date therefore accurate calving dates are essential.

Teat seal does not contain any antibiotics therefore administration must be done with excellent hygiene, good facilities, skilled helpers and lots of patience! It is advised that a vet be used for teat sealing, especially if it has not been done on farm before. Give us a call if you would like to book in teat sealing your heifers.

DRY COW INTRAMAMMARY ANTIBIOTICS

Dry cow treatment is used to:

- Treat existing sub-clinical infections that have persisted during lactation. Sustained antibiotic activity and appropriate doses of active ingredient increase the chance of curing infections embedded deep in the udder tissue.
- Reduce the number of new infections which may occur during the dry period. Antibiotic DCT protects udders from new infections in the dry period directly through the effect of the antibiotic.

Antibiotic dry cow treatment is administered into the udder immediately after the last milking of a lactation. It is designed to remain in the udder in concentrations high enough to kill mastitis bacteria for a period which depends on the product used, which is usually between 20 and 70 days. The prolonged time of exposure to antibiotic and the formulation enhance penetration and give an increased chance of curing infections embedded deep in the udder.

There are two main approaches to dry cow therapy:

- Blanket treatments—all cows in the herd are treated.
- Selective treatments—If using Selective Dry Cow Treatment, treat all cows with any ICCC above 250,000 cells/mL during the lactation, and any cow which has had a clinical case during the lactation.

The decision on which strategy to use should be based on records of BMCC, ICCC, clinical cases of mastitis, and milk culture results. Cows with high cell counts should be dried off early to help lower BMCC. You should always consult your veterinarian to help decide what strategy is best to dry off your cows.

VACCINATION OF THE DRY COW

A calf's first few days lay the groundwork for a lifetime of health and productivity, and vaccination during its dam's dry period can help make sure the calf gets started on the right foot. The first few days of a calf's life are crucial for setting up its future health and productivity. Vaccination of dams during the dry period can help make sure your calves get the best start in life. Vaccinating dry cows has multiple benefits including providing protection to the cow itself but also allowing cows to produce colostral antibodies which provide passive immunity to calves in their first weeks of life.

"Colostrogenesis" is the production of colostrum by a cow in the last weeks of gestation. During this process important antibodies are made that are passed onto the calf during the fist 24 hours of life. Therefore if we vaccinate dams during this period we can ensure they can produce antibodies against some of the main pathogens causing disease in newborn calves. "Passive transfer" is the process of immunity being transferred from dam to calf through consumption of antibody rich colostrum. Passive transfer is absolutely essential to ensuring that your calves remain healthy.

We recommend the following vaccinations for dams at dry off:

- ***Ultravac 7 in1***—provides protection to cows and calves against clostridial diseases and two types of leptospirosis. Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease that can be spread through contact with urine or reproductive secretions at calving. Its can also cause abortion storms but is easily prevented with vaccination.
- ***Ultravac Scourshield / Rotavec Corona***—provides highly effective protection to calves against the three major calf scour pathogens, coronavirus, rotavirus and E.coli.
- ***Salmonella vaccines*** —prevents salmonellosis in calves and high susceptible recently calved cows. Essential in herds where Salmonella has previously been diagnosed, cultured and typed.

"Ultravac Scourshield"

Ultravac Scourshield is the newest and most practical vaccine currently available for prevention of calf scours in Australian dairy herds. Scourshield is a vet-only product for vaccination of healthy, pregnant cows and heifers as an aid in preventing diarrhoea in their calves caused by bovine rotavirus and enterotoxigenic strains of E.coli, and for the control of diarrhoea in their calves caused by bovine coronavirus.

Scourshield is available in 100ml bottles which provides 50 doses. At current prices, Scourshield is approximately $5.80 per dose.

For herds implementing vaccination in heifers we are offering the second dose of your initial course free of charge for herds up to 300 head.

For unvaccinated cows or heifers:

- Administer 2 doses at least 3-9 weeks apart to pregnant cows
- The second dose needs to be given within 2-6 weeks prior to calving

For cattle requiring a booster vaccination:

- Administer a single dose 2-6 weeks prior to calving

If you have previously used the Rotavec Corona calf scour vaccine, it is very easy to change over to Scourshield. No additional course is required