



Dairy Newsletter

May 2021



CVC CLINIC NEWS

Welcome to the May edition of the CVC Dairy Newsletter! This month we have included some information about drenching cattle as we have been treating a number of *Ostertagia* cases in both calves and adult cattle. It is also time to start thinking about getting your cows ready for their upcoming joining. Please note that we have changed one of our lactating cow intramammary products due to supply chain difficulties from our wholesaler- there is more information on these changes over the page. Staff news— CVC would like to congratulate our vet nurse Jess and husband Jessie on the safe arrival of their son, Noah. We would also like to welcome Nelly Darcy to the CVC team. She will be a very familiar face to many of you in our CVC community and has years of experience in both the dairy and veterinary industry.

Camperdown Veterinary Centre

1 Leura Street , Camperdown

Ph: (03) 5593 1077

Hours:

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

Dairy Drug Orders

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

We are available 24-hours for emergencies on 5593 1077. Follow the prompt to speak to the veterinarian on call.

MODERN DRENCHING OF DAIRY CATTLE

Gastrointestinal parasitism is one of the most important disease of pasture based livestock industries in temperate– high rainfall areas such as South-West Victoria. Modern anthelmintics (drenching/deworming products) are the cornerstone of parasite control on most dairy farms. A recent study in Victoria identified high levels of anthelmintic resistance on dairy farms. The dairy industry presents a unique challenge to parasite control due to replacement heifer management practices such as early weaning, rearing of successive groups of heifers on the same pasture and limited land availability for heifer rearing. For these reasons the parasitological challenge for youngstock is usually high.

It is now widely accepted that the single most important factor in preventing the development of anthelmintic resistance is maintaining an adequate population of “refugia” . Refugia are a population of parasites that have not been exposed to an anthelmintic treatment. Refugia population is achieved by selective anthelmintic treatment and adopting the “treat and stay” principle of not placing drenched animals onto new pasture. The aim is to ensure that any resistant worm eggs are diluted by non resistant eggs on old pasture.

Well grown stock in good body condition score are more resistant to the effects of parasites, while young, non immune calves are most susceptible. Generally, it is not necessary to drench adult cattle over 3 years routinely. Selective anthelmintic treatment is the principle of carefully selecting which animals require treatment rather than just treating regularly, there are a number tests used to determine parasite burden in cattle:

- **In calves or young stock, faecal egg counts (FEC)** can be useful for determining whether calves need drenching. To perform a FEC for your mob we require a faecal sample from 5-15 animals. Fresh faeces can be readily collected from the ground at feeding time or at camp sites. Sample trays are available at the clinic and can be submitted with results on the same day.
- **In adult cattle a blood test to determine pepsinogen levels** is used to quantify the level of parasite burden in mature cattle. FEC are less accurate in adult cattle because they tend to develop immunity. Pepsinogen is an indicator of the amount of damage the worms have done to the cows abomasum (pictured right).

If you would like us to perform a FEC on your calves, or are concerned about parasites in your dairy cows please do not hesitate to call us!



PLEASE NOTE!

Due to the continuing issues with COVID-19 overseas we are currently experiencing difficulties with supply of lactating intramammary products such as Noroclox LC and Orbenin LC. For this reason we will now be stocking a new product called **AMPICLOX LC**. This product is similar to Noroclox/Orbenin.

- Ampiclox uses the same **antibiotic ingredient, cloxacillin** as Noroclox/Orbenin but adds in an extra ingredient **ampicillin** as well.
- It will be a similar price as Orbenin/Noroclox.
- It is **used DIFFERENTLY** to Noroclox / Orbenin. Instead of one tube every 48hrs, it is **one tube every 12 hours. Both are for 3 treatments.**
- **Milk withhold is shorter** → 72 hours (**6 milkings**)



DAIRY HERD HEALTH VISITS

With calving well under way on most farms, it is time to start thinking about getting prepared for joining. Reproductive management is the cornerstone of dairy production and early planning for “at risk cows” is essential to ensuring your herd achieves the best results come preg testing time.

It is normal for cows to have vaginal discharge for 12 days after calving - this is part of the normal process as the uterus recovers from pregnancy. Vaginal discharge that is malodorous or persists longer than 14 days after calving is considered abnormal and may indicate either endometritis or metritis. Both metritis and endometritis can significantly affect a cow's ability to get back in calf.

Metritis is an infection of the deeper layers of the uterine wall resulting in a clinically sick cow. Illness in these cows ranges from mild to life threatening and most commonly occurs in the acute post calving period.



It is a good idea to get your cows checked well before the start of joining to ensure they are cycling well before your AI start date. We offer herd health visits to all dairy clients which include metrichecking, rectal palpation of reproductive organs in any abnormal cases and treatment of endometritis or metritis.

“**Metrichecking**” is a procedure in which a Metricheck® device is inserted into the cow's vagina to sample discharge sitting near the cervix or cranial vagina. The identification of pus in this discharge is highly indicative of endometritis. Metrichecking can be performed on the whole herd or for high risk cows only. Metrichecking is a quick procedure that causes minimal discomfort and can be performed at milking on most dairies.



Endometritis is defined as infection that is confined to the endometrium and luminal layers of a cow's uterus. It is a common cause of poor reproductive performance in dairy cows. Affected cows do not have signs of systemic illness. The main feature of endometritis is the presence of purulent material (pus) in the vaginal discharge.

The major risk factors for cows developing endometritis are:

- **Dystocia** (difficult calving)
- **Premature calving** including abortion, induced calvings and twins
- **Retained fetal membranes** (RFMs)
- **Inadequate transition period nutrition** including metabolic conditions such as hypocalcaemia (milk fever), hypomagnesia (grass tetany), ketosis and fatty liver syndrome.

Cows can be treated for endometritis with an intrauterine antibiotic called “**Metricure**”. The antibiotic is placed directly into the uterus using a catheter, much like semen during artificial insemination. Treatment of infected cows can improve 6 week in calf rates by up to 15%. Cows with mild cases of endometritis may self cure, therefore we recommend waiting until 3-4 weeks after a cow has calved before getting her checked and treated.



If you would like to book a herd health visit for your cows, please give us a call to organise!