

Dairy Newsletter

August 2022



CVC CLINIC NEWS

Welcome to the August Dairy Newsletter for 2022. We hope you are all staying warm and looking forward to some spring sunshine coming soon. Many of our farmers will be breathing a sigh of relief as their calving periods come to a close. Since most of you will be well and truly into your joining periods, it's time to talk pregnancy testing. This newsletter explains the benefits of pregnancy testing as well as parasites to be on the lookout for in your cattle this time of year. We have also included a handout about Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). Give us a ring if you would like to discuss your farm biosecurity plan.

Camperdown Veterinary Centre

1 Leura Street, Camperdown

Ph: (03) 5593 1077

Hours:

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

PREGNANCY DIAGNOSIS IN DAIRY HERDS

It's that time of year again to get organised and book in your pregnancy testing!

Pregnancy diagnosis is a crucial part of a production system as it allows planning for the season ahead. At CVC we offer bovine pregnancy diagnosis with both manual palpation and ultrasound.

Manual pregnancy diagnosis is performed by rectal palpation and can be performed during gestation of **6 weeks or more**.

Ultrasound pregnancy diagnosis is used in most dairy herds these days due to increased accuracy and speed (pictured below right). All negative results are then checked manually to ensure no pregnancies are missed. **Scanners can be used to detect pregnancies from 35 days**.

The benefits of early pregnancy diagnosis in your dairy herd includes:

- Knowing when cows will calve can help **plan drying off** so that all cows get an adequate break from lactation prior to calving.
- **Empty cows** can be identified early and **re-submitted for service** within the joining period
- Decisions can be made early for **cows to be culled**
- Formulating **feed budgets**

The further in-calf a cow is at pregnancy diagnosis, the harder it is to be accurate with foetal aging. Between 6 and 16 weeks gestation, pregnancy diagnosis is very accurate and gives the best results.

Two pregnancy tests are recommended in dairy herds:

First test **15 weeks after the start of AI**

Another test **6-7 weeks after the bull is removed** from the herd

Additionally, we have access to the program **DairyData** so we are able to record and analyse your pregnancy diagnosis results and help you make informed decisions about your herds reproduction. **Please do not hesitate to call and chat with one of our team about booking in your herd's pregnancy testing.**



LUNGWORM

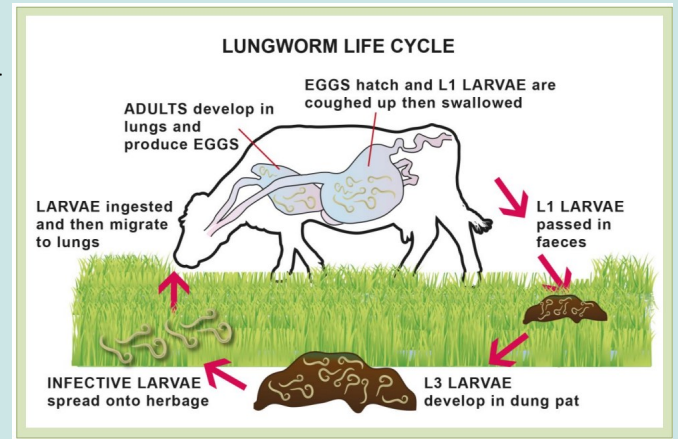
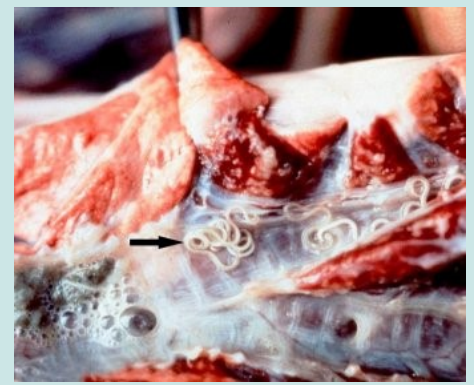
'Lungworm' is caused by a **round worm** called *Dictyocaulus viviparus*. It generally occurs in younger livestock and animals with poorer immunity when they are placed on pasture with high worm larvae burdens. Calves under 12 months of age reared in cool high rainfall conditions are most commonly affected however there can be outbreaks in warmer districts where pastures are prone to flooding.

Cattle are infected when they graze pasture contaminated with L3 larvae. These larvae then penetrate the gut and enter the lymphatic system. They are then carried to the lungs, developing into adults in the airways.

Clinical signs include: coughing, rapid breathing, nasal discharge, loss of appetite and ill thrift. In severe cases death may occur. Diarrhea may also occur but this is generally associated with concurrent infection with other worms rather than the lung worm.

Prevention: Avoid grazing young, susceptible cattle on contaminated pastures, for example pastures that have previously and recently been grazed by older cattle.

Mectin-based drench can be used to help control lung worm infections however you should always check your drench label to ensure it is active against cattle lungworm.



OSTERTAGIA

The abomasal nematode *Ostertagia ostertagi* (Small Brown Stomach Worm) is a significant cause of parasitic gastroenteritis in cattle and therefore is a major production limiting parasite. Ostertagia have a simple direct life cycle. It consists of two stages; the free-living stage on pasture and parasitic stage in cattle. There are two types of disease caused by Ostertagia in cattle:

Type I Ostertagiosis: Caused by rapid ingestion of large numbers of infective larvae after the autumn break. Most commonly seen in groups of **young calves (<18-24 months old) grazing pasture** at high stocking rates. These animals tend to have poorly developed immunity hence their susceptibility. Initially there may be a period of **reduced weight gain** with **poor coats** before **inappetence, profuse watery diarrhoea** and severe weight loss develop.

Type II Ostertagiosis: Usually occurs in animals 18-24 months due to the simultaneous emergence of encysted larvae from the abomasum. Most common in autumn after the return of cooler, higher rainfall conditions. Onset of disease is often sudden and sometimes associated with a stressful event such as feed shortage or first calving. First calving heifers are particularly susceptible due to the combination of immune suppression during pregnancy and the nutritional stress in early lactation.

Diagnosis: is not always straight forward. Faecal egg counts do not always provide an accurate indication of parasite burden. Additional blood testing may be required to investigate damage to abomasum as an indicator of in-