



## CVC CLINIC NEWS

Welcome to the first Dairy Newsletter of 2022!

We hope everyone is enjoying the summer weather and the flies aren't giving you too much grief. We have seen lots of **pink eye** flare up again this season and would like to stress the importance of seeking help if things are getting away from you - you're certainly not the only one and we're here to help!

Drying off has already started for many farmers around the district and we would like to offer all clients the opportunity to have a **"Dry Off Management Consultation"** if you are purchasing dry cow antibiotics or teat sealant. More information on these consultations and what we can offer is included over the page. We have seen a few cases of mastitis post dry-off so please take the time to read our section on hygienic dry cow administration to avoid any preventable disasters!

## Camperdown Veterinary Centre

1 Leura Street , Camperdown

Ph: (03) 5593 1077

Hours:

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

Medication and food collections only on Saturday mornings

**24-hour emergency service available by calling 5593 1077 and pressing "1" .**

## DRY COW VACCINATIONS

Vaccines are designed to expose the immune system of animals to disease causing organisms without the negative effects of the disease itself. After vaccination, the immune system produces white blood cells and antibodies which protect the animal when they are exposed to the disease naturally.

Drying off is the perfect time to vaccinate your herd so they can produce colostrum antibodies to protect their calves. When cows are vaccinated 4-6 weeks prior to calving, they are in the process of making colostrum. **Vaccinations administered at this time will ensure that the colostrum fed to calves has high numbers of antibodies and white blood cells.** This will ensure your calves protection until their own immune system matures.

We recommend the following vaccinations for dams at dry off:

- **7 in1 e.g. Ultravac 7in1**—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.
- **Calf scours vaccine e.g. 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 highly susceptible recently calved cows. Essential in herds where Salmonella has previously been diagnosed, cultured and typed.



## SUCCESSFULLY DRYING OFF YOUR DAIRY COWS

Many producers will be soon starting (if not already started) drying off cows in their herds. The dry period is a critically important time in the production cycle of a dairy cow. It is when the udder of the cow is able to remove damaged milk producing tissue as well as some of the mastitis infections that have been acquired throughout lactation (high cell count cows). Drying cows off successfully is important for setting your herd up for a healthy (less mastitis) and productive (more milk, at lower cell count levels) lactation. A successful dry off involves the following steps:

### ◆ Triggering an end to milk production

- Feed maintenance levels of nutrition
  - High fibre, low energy and moderate to low protein feeds are best
  - For example, a 550kg dairy cow would require ~13kg of DM as a maintenance diet



- Reduce milking frequency from twice to once daily in the last 5-7 days of lactation
- Once cows are dried off, keep them well away from the milking shed and milking herd to avoid the normal milking routines and shed noises stimulating milk let down.

### ◆ Hygienically infusing dry cow antibiotics and/or teat sealants into the udder or teat canal

- Assists cows to cure any existing mastitis infections
- Provides protection from new mastitis infections developing during the dry period or immediately around the time of calving
  - If treatment is performed using an unhygienic method, new mastitis infections can be initiated that will only become evident during the dry period or after cows have calved back into the herd.
  - These infections will limit milk production and quality from individual cows next season and in the worst case may result in cow deaths.

### ***Dry Cow Management Consultations***

In the interests of providing the best possible service to our clients, CVC is offering a '**Dry Cow Management Consultation**' to any clients purchasing teat sealant or dry cow antibiotic treatments from CVC.

The discussions in these consultations can be directed wherever the client wishes but may include:

- Selecting the appropriate dry off protocols and products for your herd
- Analysing herd testing, on-farm mastitis treatment records and / or milk processing company production/quality results to determine areas for improvement next season
  - Mastitis cases identification and prevention at key stages of the season
  - Farm specific mastitis treatment plans
  - Milking management to optimise milk production and quality as well as milking efficiency
- Any other aspects of cow health, milking or herd management you wish to discuss

### ***Hygienic intra-mammary methods***

1. Restrain the cow so she can't move around too much. Another person holding the cow's tail as a 'tail jack' can be helpful.
2. Before infusing any antibiotic into a quarter, ensure the quarter is completely milked out.
3. Put on disposable gloves!
4. Clean and treat each teat sequentially so you do not contaminate. Always start with the front teats first (those furthest from you)
5. **Completely disinfect the end of the teats to be treated.** This step is critical.
  - **Disinfect** by vigorously scrubbing the teat opening with metho teat wipes for a minimum of 10 seconds.
  - Check the wipe - if there is any dirty colour, **repeat** the scrub using a clean wipe until there is no more dirt seen.
5. Insert the antibiotic tube into the teat canal.
  - Remove the cap of the tube and, without touching its tip with your hand, gently insert the nozzle into the teat canal.
  - It is not necessary to insert the nozzle to its full depth – this can dilate the teat canal excessively and predispose the cow to mastitis.
  - Infuse the contents of the syringe into the teat.
  - Massage it up the teat into the udder.
7. **Disinfect teats with teat spray immediately after treatment.**
8. Clearly mark the treated cow.

