

Clinic News – One of the many events Clutha Vets supports in the community each year is the Otago Regional Dairy Industry Awards. A low number of entries this year meant a slightly different format, but we were delighted to see some of our clients amongst the award winners. Congratulations to Ben Sanders (Clinton), winner of the Dairy Trainee of the year; Thomas and Martina Jaegar (Henley) who gained the Best Practice award, and were highly commended in the Farm Manager of the year; and Chris & Kathryn Peat (Outram) who won the Business Performance award in the sharemilker / equity farmer category.

In house, vet John Smart (Smarty) has also received an honour - he has been elected President of the International Sheep Veterinarians' Association. It is great to know that Clutha Vets is contributing to farm animal health at a global level, and there are direct and indirect trickle down effects from this that benefit all of our club members.

Golf Day – Thursday 6 June at Lawrence Golf Club. Open to all Clutha Vets members regardless of golfing ability!

Partner other animal health practices with dry-off for a better herd Although we try to discuss some broader animal health issues at your Milk Quality Review, time can be a limiting factor! So here are a few things to consider at dry off time:

- **Drenching** – can be targeted towards younger & lighter cows. Internal parasites not only rob nutrients from the cows' diet but also put a strain on the immune system. Drenching at dry off will help put some condition back on your cows, to make sure they are getting the most out of what you are feeding them.
- **Vaccination** can help protect your pregnant cows. Make sure your Lepto and Clostridial vaccinations are up to date, and consider discussing a BVD vaccination program with your vet.
- **Hoof trimming** is another good practice before the dry period. Get those really lame cows looked after, knock off a few of those over-grown toes and tidy up those crooked, cracked or broken digits.

Johne's Testing of Herd A number of you have now come on board with this initiative, and it's not too late for you if you still have a herd test coming up – give us a ring and we can organise testing through LIC. We have found Johne's positive cows on every farm tested, ranging from 1 to 5% (i.e. 5-25 cows out of 500). Knowing which cows are positive allows us to limit the spread of the disease. Culling positive cows before they go clinical (diarrhoea & weight loss) means they can go to the works, which should cover the cost of testing. For those of you who are not currently herd testing, we are looking into other available methods that are accurate and cost effective for you, but please contact us anyway to express your interest and discuss further options.

Lungworm We have had a couple of cases now involving calves. In one case, a calf was found dead with two others severely affected, and several in the mob coughing and in poor condition. In both cases the mobs had been orally drenched a few weeks previously, but the drenching interval was probably too long. Oral products have no persistent activity and may need to be given every 3-4 weeks if the challenge is high. Please let us know if you have any concerns about coughing, or generally poor-doing calves.

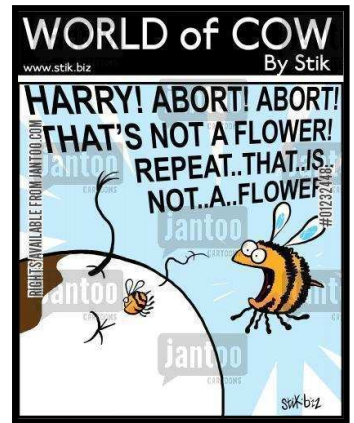


Lameness Have you gone to once a day milking and got a bit of spare time on your hands? Tracks suffering a bit after the recent rain and noticed a few cows hobbling along? Locomotion (lameness) scoring your herd as they exit the shed or walk a track is a great way to identify those animals who need your help as well as giving you an overview of the level of lameness in the herd. Please call if you would like us to provide an experienced, independent eye for this job; alternatively we can supply a free instructional DVD on locomotion scoring.

Now is also the time to think about track improvements and yard modifications that need to be made to minimise lameness next season. Please contact us if you would like advice on the best solutions for your farm - we have lots of useful resources and are happy to visit to assess your current setup and discuss what changes can be made.

Finally, we hope those of you who made it along found Neil Chesterton's visit as useful as we did. We have had some feedback that you would like some more **HANDS-ON LAME COW TREATMENT TRAINING SESSIONS** for dairy staff. PLEASE E-MAIL Keara (kbrennan@cluthavets.co.nz) if you are interested, or just phone the clinic; if there is sufficient interest we will arrange a half day session in your area taking into account the timing needs of those still milking.

The Case of the Constipated Cow The owner had noted a cow looking bloated as well as having a drop in milk production. He promptly called in one of our vets and the cow was diagnosed as having a rumen impaction. Cattle with rumen impaction present as looking off colour with a distended rumen which is not full of gas, as seen in bloat, but is just full of grass, which does not progress through the intestines and out the back end. The animal becomes increasingly dehydrated and will eventually die. In some instances the animal can be drenched with a laxative, however in this case it failed to move the large amounts of grass in the stomach. The rumen was then opened up surgically and the contents removed manually. This cow has so far made a great recovery and appears to be doing well. Rumen impaction is something to look out for especially over the winter period when the feed changes to include a lot more high fibre diets with low moisture contents such as silage and straw and hay, as is the case in most shed based wintering systems.



Induction Consults Just a reminder that if you are planning to induce cows this coming season you are required to have finalised your list of cows with us at least 60 days before the first injection. This means that if you are going to induce cows that are naturally due to calve from, say the 15th October on, then they would get their first injection on 23rd July at the earliest. In this case you would need to have done your induction consult before 24th May.

At the consult we need a record of calving dates and ages of cows that you are planning to induce. So if Clutha Vets didn't do your pregnancy scanning you would need to bring these along.

This year the limit is again 4% of cows that you are calving unless you make an application to induce a greater number, which you'd need to get onto a.s.a.p. If you would like information on how to make an application please feel free to give us a call.

End of Season Pregnancy Testing It is extremely frustrating to find you have paid good money to winter a cow only to discover in the spring that she is empty. Abortions can, and do occur, at any stage of pregnancy. You will not always find a fetus, or notice a discharge or membranes from the back of the cow. At this time of year, when staff are not focused on heat detection, it is hardly surprising that the occasional bulling cow gets missed.

Although the economics vary depending on your system, the money you'll save from unnecessary feed and transport costs for those cows that have gone empty will usually at least cover the cost of end of season pregnancy testing. Please let us know if you would like to arrange this for your herd.

This Month's Retail News:

- ***Dectomax Herd Pack*** – Pour-on treats 300 cows at 500kg plus receive an extra 2.5 litres free and a hunting knife or electric knife sharpener.
- ***Merial Ancare Cattle Injection/Pour-on*** - Receive a fishing rod & reel on selected products and go in the draw for a fishing package (exclusive to Clutha Vets) plus the Ultimate Fishing Package which is a national promotion.
- ***Boss Cattle Injection*** - a new combination injection of ivermectin, eprinomectin and levamisole for cattle treatment for new company Alleva. Also effective against lice.
- ***Cydectin Pour-on*** – Receive an extra 10% free.
- ***Combat Topline Pour-on***- only \$468.21 nett incl GST or \$2.34/500 kg cow

DOG FOR SALE

A man sees a sign outside a house 'Talking Dog For Sale.' He rings the bell; the owner appears and tells him the dog can be viewed in the back garden. The man sees a very nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there.

"Do you really talk?" he asks the dog. "Yes," the Labrador replies.

After recovering from the shock of hearing the dog talk, the man asks, "So, tell me your story."

The Labrador looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young, I wanted to help the government, so I told the Secret Service. In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders. Because no one imagined that a dog would be eavesdropping, I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years. But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. So I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at Heathrow Airport to do some undercover security work, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded several medals. I got married, had a few puppies, and now I've just retired."

The man was amazed; he goes back into the house and asks the owner how much he wants for the dog.

"Ten quid," the owner says. "£10.....!!? But this dog is absolutely amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheaply?"

"Because he's a lying bastard, he's never been out of the garden."