



FEBRUARY 2018

# Seasonal Reminders & Various other Stuff

## Vet Notes:

It is wonderful seeing the whole region so green again; here's hoping that it lasts! January was quite a big month for SRVVS. You may have already met our new vet Ares Fang. Ares has joined our team to work in both the large and small animal departments. He hopes to meet many of you in the coming months. We also need to mention our wonderful vet Kristina, who completed the Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme last year. Her research about veterinary retention in the rural sector was recently published and offers some amazing insight into how our industry may need to make some changes. *If you missed the fantastic write up in the 'NZ Farmer' magazine last month it is easily searchable with the words "Kristina Dykes" and "Kellogg".*

**This warm humid weather isn't just making it difficult to sleep at night, it also brings with it a raft of animal health issues:**

### **Flies**

- We have had a perfect storm event for an explosion in fly numbers and have started hearing of lambs being struck as little as four weeks post shearing! It's not only the sheep farmers that are feeling the pressure, flies have also become a big issue in many dairy herds. Nuisance/biting flies are not only a problem for farm workers in the shed but they also restrict production by decreasing cattle grazing and resting time. If you would like help deciding what product is best for your needs please call and talk to one of our large animal vets.

### **Facial Eczema**

- The conditions we are experiencing right now are perfect for fungal growth, and this has been reflected in our slowly rising spore counts. At the moment the counts are still well below trigger level, however they do have the potential to increase rapidly in the next couple of weeks. **Prevention methods should have already been decided on** and dairy farmers should have already started (or be starting) to supply zinc protection through the water at a reduced rate. If you aren't on our email list for the weekly spore count updates, please phone the clinic and talk to Tracy.

### **Nitrates**

- We have recently been testing a number of summer crop samples with many returning dangerous level of nitrates. Please also be aware that turnip crops appear to have a high leaf-to-bulb-ratio this season which also increases the level of nitrates in the crop as a whole. Prevention is always better than cure, so if in doubt please bring in a representative sample of your paddock and we can test it for you, usually within a few hours.

### **Barbers pole**

- These conditions are also great for parasite survival on pasture and the warmer temperatures mean Barber's Pole/Haemonchus species will start to predominate. Regular drenching of lambs and goats with any anthelmintic (depending on your resistance status) will usually keep worm burdens low, however most lifestyle blocks still have a problem with Barber's Pole each year despite regular drenching. For this reason we suggest lifestyle blocks use a product containing moxidectin (Exodus Se<sup>®</sup>) at this time of year as it provides a continued kill of this parasite for up to 35 days. Because Barber's Pole sucks the blood of its host, you often won't notice that you have an issue until lambs and goats start dying, therefore prevention is key. Please also bring in some pre and post drench faecal samples so we can perform a 'drench check' to assess whether the drench is still working effectively on your property. For more information please ring the clinic and talk to one of our large animal vets.

### **Brassica photosensitivity**

- Brassica photosensitisation is most commonly seen within 10 -14 days of grazing summer turnips or immature rape, especially when those turnips have been grown under drought stress (all but those crops under irrigation this season). To prevent issues, gradually introduce crop, avoid breakouts with double fencing and adequate voltage, feed the crop when it is fully mature and always provide other feed sources of pasture or supplements before turning out onto crop. If you see signs of early photosensitivity in your animals (twitching, irritability, stomping/kicking, swollen eyes, ears, udder and feet) provide shade, apply zinc-based sunscreens (e.g. Filtabac<sup>®</sup>) and anti-inflammatories (e.g. Ketomax<sup>®</sup>) if required. When the skin begins to thicken and peel the animal should be monitored with fly products and/or antibiotics used on a case-by-case basis.

# Dry Cow Therapy Scripts and Shed Inspections

Just a wee reminder, you need to have a signed copy of your dry cow therapy script from the current season (i.e. the scripts you received last year) in your farm folder, in order to pass your shed inspection.

If you have miss-placed yours, please contact us before your inspection so we can make another copy for you.

## Early pregnancy testing summary

We have completed most of our early pregnancy scanning herds so far and the results are presented in the adjacent table. The 6 week in calf rate is currently a bit higher at 68% than last years 64% early average.

The average conception rate is below target at only 46% (target=60%) and shows quite a lot of variation (38-65%). This is a very similar result to the last two years.

Overall the results aren't too dissimilar from previous years which could be seen as a positive considering the shocking wet spring we experienced.

February is almost fully booked with scanning so please book in if you haven't already. Also remember that the bulls need to have been out for at least 6 weeks for us to give you an accurate empty rate.

Farm	6 wk IC (%)	First Service Conception Rate (%)	# Tested
Herd 1	79	58	309
Herd 2	76	65	336
Herd 3	75	52	371
Herd 4	74	37	307
Herd 5	70	47	290
Herd 6	70	48	416
Herd 7	70	45	212
Herd 8	68	42	253
Herd 9	68	45	370
Herd 10	67	44	525
Herd 11	67	51	552
Herd 12	66	41	437
Herd 13	60	43	927
Herd 14	57	38	358
Herd 15	54	39	654
Average	68	46	



## New In Store : DELMAX POUR-ON

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