



SOUTHERN RANGITIKEI VETERINARY SERVICES LIMITED

233 State Highway 1 Bulls & 48 Tutaenui Road Marton

JUNE 2018

Seasonal Reminders & Various other Stuff Vet Notes:

June is a relatively busy month for us in the production department, with all of our staff in the full swing of drying off cows and teatsealing heifers. Now is a good time to get breeding bulls blood tested and vaccinated against BVD, so they are ready for mating (if you get this done now it means one less job to do in the spring!). Just a reminder that dairy herds, including R1s and R2s, are due for their annual lepto vaccinations if this hasn't already been done. Next month we will once again have our Spring First Aid and Calf Rearing seminars, please RSVP to Tracy if you are interested in attending either of these – more info on these below/over the page.

Winter shearing:

It's certainly starting to feel a lot like winter with the recent southerly change in the weather. For those of you who are winter shearing your ewes it is important to be mindful of the timing - if there is a cold snap in the forecast delay shearing until after any inclement weather, and ideally it should be done between 50-100 days gestation to avoid abortions or pregnancy toxemia/milk fever. Shearing should only be done if there is saved feed for them to go onto afterwards and there is provision of adequate shelter for the first week off-shears. Ewes in light body condition should not be shorn.

Nitrate testing:

We are still doing a lot of testing of new grass and crops for nitrates, and many of these are still coming back with dangerously high levels of nitrates. Whilst it is extremely frustrating to not be able to start feeding these paddocks when the quality is good, you only need to lose one animal to nitrate toxicity for it to become an expensive exercise. As long as samples are brought into the clinic before 4pm we can give you the results on the same day, and one nitrate test is only \$15.13+ GST.



**\$60 per
Person***
* discounted for
Multiples per farm

SRVS CALF REARING SEMINAR

Wednesday 4th July 10am—12pm

This half day seminar will give participants an in-depth understanding of all aspects of calf rearing including husbandry, health, disease and Best Practice.

RSVP: Monday 2nd July (06) 3222 333 A light lunch and refreshments provided



SPRING FIRST AID SEMINAR

**\$180 per
Person***
* discounted for
Multiples per farm

Wednesday 11th July 2018 10am—3pm SRVS Seminar Room 233 SH BULLS

This seminar will give participants an understanding of spring animal health issues and how to deal with them.

Topics include metabolic conditions, recognising the sick cow, prolapses, calf disease basics and correct technique for administration of medicines.

RSVP by Monday 9th July (06) 3222 333 michelle@srvs.co.nz Lunch, tea & coffee provided.

Fodder beet:

Fodder beet is a high energy crop feed that has increased in popularity over the past few years. Careful management of fodder beet grazing is essential to avoid animal health issues like acidosis. The transition period should last 14 days and be carefully planned to ensure dry matter intakes are increased in increments of 0.5-1kg/day maximum (depending on what size stock you are grazing). The aim of the transition period is to allow the rumen to adapt to the high levels of sugars in the beets, to the point where cattle can have ad lib intakes on the beets. Rumen acidosis is the main health issue we encounter with the use of fodder beet and it is 100% preventable with good transition management. It only needs intakes increased by 2kg in adult cattle over one day for acidosis to occur. Acidosis is encountered far more frequently with the winter grazing of dairy cattle rather than beef animals due to their different grazing behaviours. However poor transition of beef cattle onto fodder beet will result in staggered weight gains, which affects your bottom line and can make fodder beet uneconomical.

Mastitis during the dry period:

Dairy cows should be checked regularly over the dry period for mastitis. A visual check should be done daily in the paddock looking for swollen quarters, and then the cows should be brought through the shed for a manual check of the udder every 14 days. Any quarters found with clinical mastitis should be stripped out completely and given treatment with a course of lactating cow antibiotics. Dry cow therapy should never be administered or re-administered to a cow during the dry period, as a lack of milk in the udder can cause issues with inhibitory substance residues.