

MARCH 2018

Seasonal Reminders & Various other Stuff

Vet Notes:

Dave Angove retiring

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At the end of March Dr Dave is retiring from SRVS after over 25 years with us and nearly 50 years as a practicing clinician. We will miss his experience and wise quips but wish him all the best for his retirement. We are hoping that Dave will be available to help out on the odd occasion, however some of you may wish to call into one of the clinics to speak to Dave personally before the end of the month.



Animal Health

Facial Eczema



Spore counts have risen recently sporadically through the district. There has been the odd cold morning but with the current increase in the spore counts it would be wise to increase preventative zinc dose rates up towards the full protection rates required. We have seen the occasional case of photosensitivity in the odd animal but at this stage are unaware of any mob cases of facial eczema in the district. The cause of these sporadic photosensitivity cases is probably due to some toxins being in plant material being eaten either with the amount of weeds that are in some of the crops or the moisture stress of some of the actual fodder crops being fed.

Mycoplasma

It is heartening to hear the industry experts and the local veterinarians in the lower part of the South Island are still stating that eradication of mycoplasma from NZ is possible. Most of the dairy farms would have submitted their vat samples now for surveillance testing. The first round of results are available and out of 9500 surveillance vat tests, there have been no mycoplasma found. However, three negative tests are required to ensure that herds are free of the disease. This is due to test sensitivity. So, while the initial results are good, they are not final. Nationally there will be no change in the traceability, testing and containment policy involving farms with connections to the main two South Island sources.

It is interesting to see that there are some overseas speakers being invited to NZ to talk on how their local industries, eg USA or Europe, have managed to farm with mycoplasma infected herds. The goal is still eradication though and farm biosecurity will certainly have an increased focus to it. All farms need to assess what the risk factors are to their farming business and develop strategies to minimise those risks. This process has been developed over time with conditions such as drench resistance, tuberculosis, johnes disease, BVD and pasture weeds etc and so mycoplasma is now an additional factor to be included.

Autumn Stock Health

We have had the odd reporting of barbers pole outbreaks. There is also the potential for general intestinal worm outbreaks once some more rain falls. This is because of the dry period we have had associated with the poor pasture growth rates and general pasture covers on some farms. Once we have some more moisture and the temperatures stay up then the worm larvae on the pastures will hatch and clinical worm outbreaks may occur. So ensure that you are doing your young sheep and cattle at the regular dosing interval for the products that you are using. Generally this is 4 weekly for oral drenches and 6-8 week intervals for injectable and pour-on products depending on what product you are using.

Sheep abortions

Most of the Toxovax® would have been administered by now but just a reminder about Campylovexin® booster vaccinations as well. If you have any questions please phone and discuss them with one of our vets.

Pregnancy Scanning

We are nearly through the scanning now. Results have been similar to previous years but it is pleasing that there are a number of herds with an increased six week in calf rate and a higher first round conception rate. One factor involved here will be that because the spring was awful the cows did not peak as high or for as long as normal. This has been reflected through to improved in-calf rates in a number of herds.

Stock Body Condition

We are all observing a wide variation in body condition amongst the herds and flocks. Pasture growth rates are generally below average for this time of year and there is probably going to be a reduction in the amount of supplementary feed available for the winter. Hopefully the maize crops will yield as well as they look like they should. Now is the time that you need to be assessing the body condition of dairy cows especially. Decisions about removing culls from the farm now, placing lighter conditioned cows on OAD milking or drying them off early need to be made early to get the maximum benefit.



	Average	Range 2018	Averages for the last 3 years		
			2015	2016	2017
1 st conception rate	48%	26 – 77%	47%	45%	45%
6wk incalf rate	66%	32 – 79%	67%	66%	64%
Empty rate	15%	6 – 33%	14%	15%	15%

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IT'S ALL COMING OFF!



Jordan is shaving his locks for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer. If you would like to donate go to his Shave for a Cure page at www.shaveforacure.co.nz