

February

2015

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DCT For Early Dry Off

Cows dried off early have a greater risk of mastitis at spring time if only an antibiotic is used (or nothing). This is because the antibiotic products currently available have a protective period in the udder of no longer than 10 weeks. When cows are dry for longer than this they become susceptible to new infections. A teatsealant is the only product capable of protecting these cows right through until calving.

The cornerstone of mastitis control is a good Dry Cow Therapy (DCT) programme. Dry Cow Therapy has two functions:

- To cure existing infections
- To prevent new infections during the dry and peri-calving periods

The ability of antibiotic DCT to cure existing infections and prevent new infections in the early part of the dry period is well known. The udder is reasonably resistant to new infections through the mid dry period. The risk of infection increases significantly in the two weeks prior to calving -just when protection from the antibiotic DCT is tapering off, or has long gone as is the case when cows have to be dried off early. Up to 25 % of teats never form a teat plug and 97% of new infections are in 'open teats', i.e. those in which a teat plug has not formed. Adding Teatseal® to your DCT programme means the udder is protected for the whole dry period.

The **gold standard** approach to DCT therefore always includes a teatsealant.

There are many studies that support the use of combination therapy including a 2006 NZ study which showed combination therapy reduced clinical mastitis during the dry period and at calving by 50%, compared to antibiotic alone. Research in the UK by Dr Eric Hillerton, DairyNZ's Chief Scientist, also showed overall infections were reduced by around 50% in cows where combination therapy was used, compared to using antibiotic alone. In this research the reduction in mastitis was higher (67%) for cows that had a dry spell greater than 10 weeks.

As well as preventing new infections at calving, the benefits of combination therapy also extend into lactation. A study in the UK measured mastitis levels out to 100 days post calving. There was an estimated range of 33 – 50% reduction in the number of clinical mastitis cases in the first 100 days after calving, compared to antibiotic alone.

Cutting back on DCT, although saving money short term, can often cause bigger problems and negate any perceived savings, as well as taking up valuable time treating mastitis cases. Your Milk Quality consult is a great chance to go through the options and pick our brains about anything mastitis related.

Promos and Updates:

FACEGUARD Zinc Boluses—purchase Faceguard and go into the draw to win an excellent Webber BBQ, see instore today.

TIME CAPSULE Zinc boluses are offering a \$10 MTA voucher for every full box purchase.

The start of February is the time to go forth with zinc blousing and increasing the zinc oxide or water treatment dose. This season is no exception with spore counts this week soaring over 100,000.

IAMS 3kg cat food come with a super fun cat play cube.

We are seeing a lot of itchy uncomfortable pets around. A good flea control programme is an essential start to itchy pets. Don't waste money on supermarket treatments. Purchase a brand guaranteed to work. Hot wash (>60degrees) or spray any bedding and consider flea bombing the house. Of course there are also many other factors to consider around itchy pets so if your pet is uncomfortable give us a call.

You've been asking for it, and its almost here, after seven years in the making, a two-in-one tube for drying off containing both an antibiotic AND a teatsealant!! New Zealand will be the first country to have access to the product, but don't get too excited, it will most likely not be available until next season, with paper pushing requirements yet to go through in time for the current season.



Best Caption for this cow stuck in a tree photo wins two bottles of wine !!! Send to: office@tirauvets.co.nz

Weaner Drenching

Cooperia is one of the common intestinal worms of young cattle. Cooperia burdens increase at this time of year and can be very productive limiting if the correct drench is not used. There is a lot of Cooperia resistance to the two main drench families therefore it is important to use a combination drench into your drenching programme.

In general a good programme is to use a combination drench at least every second drenching, if not every drench.

Examples of highly reputable combination drenches are:

Arrest-C- Oral drench.

Eclipse—Pour-on.

Eclipse-E—Injectable.

Be wary of imitation drenches that do not have the proven trial work behind them. Many drench companies use data from other drenches to apply to their product when their product may not be the same at all!

Deaf Wife

Fred feared his wife Rhonda wasn't hearing as well as she used to and he thought she might need a hearing aid.

Not quite sure how to approach her, he called the family Doctor to discuss the problem.

The doctor told him there is a simple informal test the husband could perform to give the Doctor a better idea about her hearing loss.

"Here's what you do," said the Doctor, "stand about 40 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response."

That evening, the wife is in the kitchen cooking dinner, and he was in the den. He says to himself 'I'm about 40 feet away lets see what happens.' Then in a normal tone he asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?"

No response.

So Fred moves closer to the kitchen, about 30 feet from his wife and repeats, "Rhonda, what's for dinner?". Still no response.

Next he moves into the dining room where he is about 20 feet from his wife and asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?"

Again he gets no response.

So, he walks up to the kitchen door, about 10 feet away. "Honey, what's for dinner?"

Again there is no response.

So he walks right up behind her. "Rhonda, what's for dinner?"

"Damnit, Fred, for the FIFTH time, Chicken!"