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New look Script; New helpful online tool

As autumn has arrived, the time for your annual Milk Quality Consult is around the corner. During this consult your farm's performance around mastitis during this season is discussed, decisions around dry-off are made and plans for the next season's approach to milk quality are made.

Part of this consult covers the actual scripting of RVM drugs for your farm; mainly dry off treatments and lactating cow treatments are discussed in this consult. We have made quite a few changes to our scripting system over the past 18 months and some of you will already be familiar with the new 'Drug Ledger' instead of the old PAR booklet. Moving forward all farms will receive a plastic chart that is their actual script.

There are two sides to this chart:




The front-side contains a list of indications like 'early season mastitis' / 'multiple quarter mastitis' etc. When you follow the line of this indication, across the page, the preferred treatments are then listed, with their dose rate, route of administration and withholding periods.

On the back is a full list of the products scripted to your farm, their active ingredients, how many units are scripted and during what time period your script is valid.



Together these two sides adhere to all current requirements and shed inspectors will sign them off as appropriate.

The scripting process will be done online on our amazing new website www.farmacy.co.nz

During your consult your Veterinarian will take you through your own webpage and the wide range of possibilities the website has to offer you. This includes the Digital Dairy Diary that is purpose developed for ease of use, and it calculates your withholding periods for any specific animal that you are treating.

It's pretty amazing and, we look forward to presenting this to you.

Record treatments cow side



farmacy+

Member log ins available now, talk with your Vet



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Dairy Antibioqram

With an increasing focus on better use of antibiotics, knowledge of the resistance status of the common mastitis pathogens in your herd is important. It helps you and your Vet when making decisions about lactating cow mastitis treatments and dry cow antibiotic selection.

The Antibioqram allows early detection of emerging resistance on a farm, hence allowing changes in treatment approaches if required. Additionally, individual farms can be benchmarked against what is happening nationally in terms of antibiotic resistance.

More than 10% of farms nationally have now been tested. What this has identified is that about 40% of farms have evidence of penicillin resistance amongst the *Staph aureus* isolates, and a proportion of farms have *Strep uberis* isolates that have reduced sensitivity to injectable mastitis antibiotics.

For an individual herd, the results allow for more focused use of antibiotics, with many farms being able to use appropriate narrow spectrum antibiotics for mastitis treatment throughout the year. Conversely, there are a number of farms who have had to change away from injectable antibiotic for mastitis treatment.

The Dairy Antibioqram tests the antibiotic sensitivity of multiple isolates of *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Streptococcus uberis* gathered from a bulk tank sample. Using a bulk tank milk sample enables multiple bacteria to be tested and does not require sampling and culture of individual quarters across the herd, which was the way we historically had to gather this information. The test can easily be ordered and does not require any sampling by herd owners.

Having the Dairy Antibioqram information at the time of your milk quality consult allows your Vet to make more precise decisions about the approach to treating both clinical mastitis in your herd and selecting the best approach to drying off. If you have not ordered an Antibioqram test for your herd, talk to your Vet to arrange this important step in taking control of antibiotic resistance in your herd.

Getting cow condition right for spring calvers

By Dave Curnow, Veterinarian, Anexa Ngatea

With most Spring calving farms in the thick of implementing their recovery strategy prior to next season, things are all go!

Setting both the farm and the cows up must be priority. On many farms, extensive re-grassing will result in markedly less available grazing area than normal this autumn. Farm condition combined with variable herd body condition at present means that a realistic plan needs to be in place now to ensure the girls calve down in good shape. Every season the message is the same “don’t milk on too late at the expense of next spring”.

Like everything in farming, there is always a compromise and the short-term gain in more days in milk could become a larger loss next season if cow condition falls away.

Target body condition scores (BCS) at calving is 5.0 for mature cows and 5.5 for 2 and 3-year olds. A lot of herds do not reach these targets due to a combination of inadequate feed (type and amount) offered and time before calving.

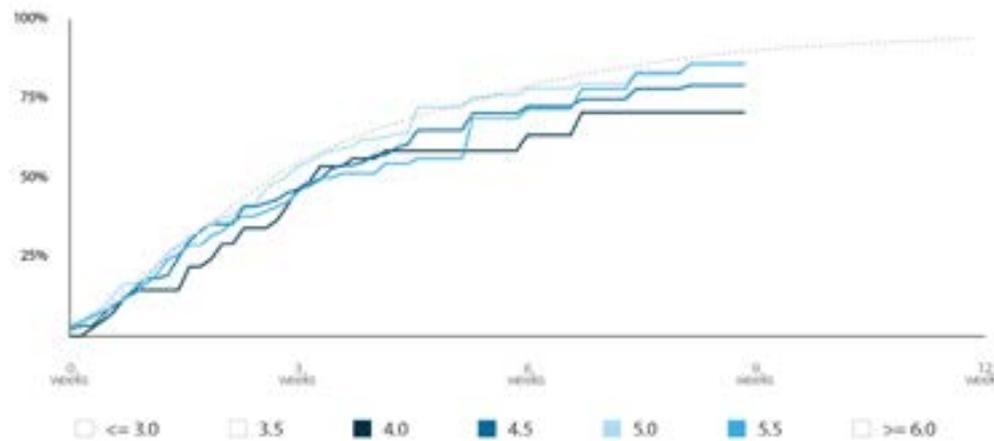
To the right is a local example demonstrating the impact of BCS on reproduction. In this herd, cows calving in BCS 5.0 had a 6% higher 6 week in calf than a cow calving in 4.5, which is worth \$24/cow, and cows calving in BCS 4.0 vs 5.0 had a 17% lower 6 week in calf – worth \$68/cow.

The industry average lost milk production is 15kg per BCS unit below target at calving.

Planning ahead requires knowing where your herd is currently, continued monitoring, and having a sound plan over the coming months.

If you would like your herd body condition scored to industry standards or would like advice on how to get your herd to calving targets, please contact your local Anexa FVC Vet.

In-Calf Rates by Body Condition Score



In-Calf Rates by Body Condition Scores as at Planned Start of Calving (PSC)

BCS	Count	In-calf rate				Not in-calf rate
		3 weeks	6 weeks	9 weeks	9+ weeks	
<= 3.0	1	0%	0%	100%	100%	0%
3.5	1	0%	100%	100%	100%	0%
4.0	41	4%	41%	59%	71%	29%
4.5	93	10%	45%	70%	79%	21%
5.0	144	15%	51%	76%	86%	14%
5.5	66	7%	42%	69%	86%	14%
>= 6.0	24	3%	42%	89%	100%	0%
All BCS	527	67%	44%	66%	78%	22%

Depopulation of *Mycoplasma bovis* infected dairy herds

By Scott McDougall, Principle Senior Scientist and Managing Director, Cognosco

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has announced that they will proceed with the depopulation of the remaining 22 farms where *Mycoplasma bovis* has been confirmed. This will involve removal of about 22,000 animals.

This decision comes as MPI has gained confidence that the *M. bovis* is likely to be relatively recently introduced into New Zealand, and that the disease is confined to a small number of farms with direct connections. The national bulk milk survey has not detected any previously unknown clusters of this disease, with only one additional herd being identified. Thus MPI appears to be confident that the extent of the disease spread is now well defined, and that eradication is technically feasible.

While the impact on the individual herd owners is not to be underestimated, the benefit to the dairy and beef industry of remaining *M. bovis* free is substantial. In countries where *M. Bovis* is endemic, high levels of biosecurity and ongoing routine monitoring for *M. bovis* are required. This increases costs and potentially limits animal movements.

From a local perspective, it appears that the North Island is effectively free of *M. bovis* and the government is implementing tighter surveillance of cattle movements across Cook Strait to ensure that the North Island remains free.

The important message is that biosecurity measures should be beefed up, and care should be taken in purchasing animals, with a high level of scrutiny of purchased stock in terms of previous disease history. It appears that spread of *M. bovis* thus far in New Zealand is linked with direct animal movements, emphasising the importance of running closed herds.

The *M. bovis* outbreak has also highlighted issues with compliance to the NAIT system. Damien O'Connor has been quoted as saying that only 57% of farmers record the required movements within 48 hours on NAIT, and that perhaps only 30% of animal movements are properly recorded. The NAIT system was designed to deal with disease outbreaks such as *M. bovis*. The ability to rapidly and reliably track animal movements is critical in disease outbreak monitoring and control. So ensuring that animal movements are accurately and quickly reported in the NAIT system is vital for disease control in New Zealand.

So remain vigilant for unusual recurrent and non-responsive cases of mastitis, unusual outbreaks of lameness, and outbreaks of pneumonia and head tilt in calves. If you see any one of these symptoms, and particularly if you see all three sets of symptoms, please contact your Veterinarian.

Keep an eye on your herd's Zinc and Copper trace element levels

Zinc

Some farmers have been experiencing problems with facial eczema this summer, even in herds that have a good zinc supplementation programme. This has led to many people supplementing zinc at higher levels and some adding zinc to supplementary feed or using boluses when they traditionally haven't. There are two potential concerns that you should be aware of if you have made the decision to increase or change your zinc dosing.

- 1) **Zinc toxicity:** The levels of zinc recommended for protection from facial eczema are quite close to the toxic level, which means we need to be careful we don't push cows over the edge. Signs of long term zinc toxicity include cows off milk, milk fever like symptoms, constipation and in severe cases anaemia, jaundice and death. This is more likely when cattle are treated with zinc on a more infrequent basis.
- 2) **As zinc interferes with copper uptake from the gut,** supplementing zinc for longer or at higher doses may reduce copper levels more this year than previously.

Copper

While zinc supplementation is increased it is important to be aware that this reduces the ability for cows to absorb copper. Low copper can affect production, reproductive performance and growth rates in younger animals.

Liver biopsies are the key to allowing you to make good and economical copper supplementation decisions. Liver biopsies are the only form of testing that can assess copper storage levels and predict if the levels are high enough to get cows through calving and peak production. They will prevent you from wasting money on unnecessary supplementation if your herd already has adequate copper levels, and prevent you from risking copper toxicity by supplementing without knowing the copper status of your herd. A few years ago, we saw at least three herds with copper at toxic levels, because they were feeding PKE and supplementing copper together.

Therefore the important message this year is:

- Don't risk your animals becoming low in copper and suffering production losses.
- Don't waste your money on unnecessary supplementation if you don't need it.
- Don't supplement copper blindly and risk toxicity.

Contact your local Anexa FVC Vet for advice on trace element testing and supplementation this season. We can also customise a mineral mix for you to meet the exact requirements of your herd, so that you aren't wasting a cent.



Have you got CLOWNs in your herd?

CLOWNs are cows with **Claws Overgrown**, but **Walking Normally**.

Overgrown claws are an early indicator for lameness. Uneven weight bearing will shift the balance to one of the claws and predispose to lameness. When it starts raining, these cows are the first to get lame.

The solution to prevent this lameness occurring is corrective hoof trimming. Hoof trimming restores the weight bearing surface and existing lesions are removed, so the feet can handle increasing weight from a growing calf. Basically, you are hitting the reset button and it's a bit like turning your older cows' feet into heifer feet!

Did you know?

- Rain itself does not cause lameness, it only exacerbates it
- Overgrown claws do not recover during the dry off period
- The average cost per lame cow is \$351 (based on 200 cow herd with 7% lameness, no antibiotic treatment and no culling for lameness)
- More than half of lameness is attributable to previous lameness event

Anexa FVC partners with a professional hoof trimmer to provide a trimming service for your herd. Stuart Rogers from Hoof IT has a hydraulic crush to competently and efficiently trim your cows' claws. Spend \$30 now, to save \$351 next season.



Please call
Rhonda at the
Anexa Gordonton
on 07 824 2103 or
027 886 5621 to book
a visit.

slip
slop
slap



Winner: Richard & Megan Boerson



Winner: Ken Bensemen



Winner: Jeff Going



Winner: Sebo & Becky Bruins

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pet photoshoot**

During March and April



DID YOU KNOW WE CAN TAKE CARE OF YOUR PET'S HEALTH TOO?

Ensure your pet's diet is right for their age and stage book a Free Healthy Weight Consult*

*FREE Vet Nurse healthy weight consults during March and April. Bookings essential.

** Buy any petfood from Anexa during March and April and go into the draw to win a photoshoot with pet photographer Rachel Bryant. Prize includes a free photoshoot for up to 2 pets, 2 free digital files, 1 free 8x10 print. Option to upgrade available.

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