

**Triple Combo Sheep Drench:  
Moxidectin, Levamisole  
and Albendazole  
The ultimate quarantine  
drench & good routine  
drenching choice**

Trimox Hi Mineral is registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997 N# 10734



**Mycoplasma testing**

Neil Warnock BVM&S

During the autumn, to screen for the bacteria Mycoplasma bovis, bulk milk samples have been collected from milking herds every fortnight throughout New Zealand and testing of these samples has finally concluded in the last couple of weeks.

From these bulk milk tests, you may or may not have been aware, that several farms in Northland have tested “positive” for Mycoplasma bovis.

In Northland, 693 dairy farms were tested during this process and of them, 18 tested positive for Mycoplasma Bovis (2.6% of herds tested).

However, the disease is unlikely to be as widespread as these initial results appear.

The test that is undertaken in the bulk milk at this stage of the eradication process, is called a screening test. To identify a small number of bacteria in a bulk milk sample, requires a screening test that is extremely sensitive. The downside to such a sensitive test is that it can provide false positive results. These are caused by bacteria in the milk sample that are similar in shape and size to Mycoplasma bovis. Therefore, a positive screening test doesn't necessarily mean the herd is positive for Mycoplasma bovis. Of the 18 Northland farms which tested positive for the Mycoplasma Bovis, only a small number of them will actually have the disease. MPI suspects that of these 18 farms, only one or two (if any) will have true Mycoplasma bovis infections (0.2% of herds tested).

**BVD test and  
vax service bulls  
prior to mating**

Because it is impossible to tell which herds have false positives without further testing, to prevent any further spread of the disease, these 18 farms have all been put on movement restrictions while a second test is performed to confirm whether the

disease is present or not. This second test has very few false positive results, meaning that if they test positive at this second test then the farm has a true Mycoplasma bovis infection. This second test involves blood testing every single animal on these properties and if a percentage of these animals test positive for the disease, then they are declared an infected herd.

As you can imagine, the process of testing every animal on these properties is time consuming, so it may be a little while before these farms are declared negative from the disease and taken off movement restrictions. MPI suggests this may take up to 12 weeks.

To continue the monitoring process, MPI plans to take a bulk milk sample every month from every farm throughout New Zealand. For this reason, it is vital that you keep your NAIT records up to date so that in the unlikely event your farm tests positive at one of the screening tests, you have accurate records for animals entering and leaving the property to help with the secondary testing process.

If you have any further questions regarding the testing process and what implications it may have for yourself, please don't hesitate to contact us at Wellsford Vets.

**Apply nitrogen  
fertilizers to  
boost early  
spring pasture**

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**Vet Clinic Staff**

**Vets**

- David Haugh
- Olaf Klein
- Steve McAulay *CEO*

Neil Warnock

**Nurses**

- Nikki Humfrey
- Susan Paddy

**Accounts**

Steph Treadwell

**Receptionist**

Karen Partridge

**Opening stanza**

Stephen McAulay BVSc

A month in spring can be a long time. Brian Mason's farm on Mickle Road in Tomarata has been given a “the all clear”, no Mycoplasma issue. Which is good news for Brian and his immediate neighbours.

The Mycoplasma stigma seems to have been extended to any farmer bringing large numbers of animals to a new area e.g. a new 50:50 sharemilker. This is inappropriate. I would liken it to the initial HIV/AIDS issues of the 1980's and 1990's. Education and knowledge help improve this situation, not hysteria.

October is proving to be a good month with the expected warmer ground conditions and subsequent improved grass growth and pasture covers.

Care is required when sourcing service bulls, obtaining information on number of NAIT movements prior to purchase and even vendor opinion on NAIT. Service bulls should be BVD tested and vaccinated and getting a signed declaration stating “to the best of my knowledge no farms associated with NAIT movements of these animals have any Mycoplasma notifications”. Dating and signing these declarations may provide some financial accountability.

A service bull purchase is not like purchasing an ice-cream. Service bulls and any purchased animals have a history important to the financial viability of your business. Ask for that history.

**Mating**

Stephen McAulay BVSc

Few things affect farm financial viability more than getting cows in-calf early. Mating for a short time seems like being a great idea after “slogging through the required workload” of spring time. Anything to make things easier. Unfortunately empty cows have a significant reduction asset value. The best method to lower empty rates is to mate for longer.

Heat detection is an issue. The best farms only detect 90%, most farms only 80%. Consider 100 cow farm with 85% heat detection. 85 cows will be submitted for AI in the first 3 weeks of mating. With 50% conception only 43 will get in calf. Of the remaining 57 with a 85% heat detection and 50% conception only 25 will get in calf in the second 3 weeks of mating. Leaving 32 cows empty. Would you mate for 6 weeks of AI and accept 32% empty rate?

**Want good flea and tick control on your dogs?  
Treat your mates with  
NexGard oral tablets**

NexGard is registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997 N#A011040



**Boss - Triple Combination Mineralised drench for Sheep**

For sheep greater than 20kg and older than 4 weeks age. Contains Abamectin, Levamisole, Oxfendazole & Selenium & Cobalt

Boss Triple Combination Mineralised drench for Sheep is registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997 No011614.



**Managing mastitis**

*Olaf Klein DrMedVet*

Mastitis and cell count elevation go hand in hand. Over the years many mastitis detection tools have been developed and all work on the basis that the changing chemical composition of mastitis milk is characterised by the change of individual parameters, these are then measured and indicate whether mastitis is present or not.

The battery powered testers measure how well electricity flows through the milk. Mastitis milk is saltier and therefore the conductivity of the milk goes up. The sheets of mastitis detection paper, with four yellow dots on it, show changes in colour when the pH of the milk drops as it does with mastitis. The paddle testing with rapid mastitis test solution works on the basis that the protein from the somatic cells reacts with

the detergent in the test solution and forms a gel.

Most people use the rapid mastitis test or an electronic tester. The most important thing when using either of them is to al-

**>90% herd  
3 week  
submission rate**

**Top farmers  
achieve  
InCalf Benchmark**



ways use them in the exact same way, like same cleaning procedure between each individual test with electronic devices and with the rapid mastitis test keep the ratio milk to test solution constant very time. This is the only way to get consistent results and remember

that if you want to know the actual cell count per ml of milk you need to have a device that counts cells. Your hand held little job (tester) does not do that sort of thing. That is where herd testing comes in as the gold standard of mastitis detection.

**23rd Psalm - thank you**

*David Haugh BVSc*

Recent times have seen bad press about the use of nitrogen and phosphate fertilizer and about the methane gas ruminants belch into the atmosphere. Apparently the volume of urine cattle

deposit on the ground puts too much nitrogen on one spot for the grass to cope with leading to runoff. Improving welfare laws imply we haven't been doing well enough in the past and today rifle

**Need a good combination worming product for your young stock, ask for the BOSS-**

Boss Injection is registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997 No10830

**Lepto vaccinate calves with 7in1 prior to weaning**

ownership is falling in public support.

On Monday night I went to a "Stellar Singers" performance. Their final song, which was offered as encouragement for those going through hard times, was a beautiful

rendition of The 23rd Psalm...."The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures...." Something went click in me...the psalm didn't say lying down in an orchard or a vineyard or in front of an awesome mountain or in an amazing dwelling or auditorium ...it was in green pastures. So as the main stewards of our green pastures...thank you.

**Killing mycoplasma in calf milk**

*Stephen McAulay BVSc*

The recent Mycoplasma scare in our dairy district raises some good issues. Did your farm take active steps to reduce the chance of your replacements contracting mycoplasma from the milk you feed them.

One of the managers of a beef farm dealing with the issue of receiving animals with Mycoplasma exposure suggested to me that "he couldn't believe that dairy

**<75% herd  
calved end week 6?**

**Seek Help!**  
InCalf Benchmark



farmers where not pasturizing their calf milk. Considering the asset investment in their replacements which are 30% of the animals which they own" He thought "pasturization was a no brainer to reduce the financial risk to your business".

Our vet Neil Warnock thinks that the pasturisation issue is just one of resistance to change. The biggest problem of change is making the decision to change not the actual change itself.

Neil is an advocate of "not feeding mastitis milk to calves" to reduce the risk of spreading infection. Perhaps we should all take his recommendation to heart.


Pasturizing milk can also reduce the spread of Johne's disease. Most farms have low levels of Johne's present and the animals which start wasting away are only the "tip of the iceberg". Many more sub-clinical Johne's cows probably contribute to the empty and mastitis cull cow groups.

**Key Reproduction Dates**

Calving Date	10 July	20 July	1 Aug
Apply Heat Detection Aids; tail paint, scratchies or K-mars	29 Aug	8 Sept	20 Sept
Metricheck Herd	29 Aug	8 Sept	20 Sept
Check Non-cycling cows	22 Sept	2 Oct	14 Oct
CIDR Programme Visit #1 -insert CIDR	22 Sept	2 Oct	14 Oct
CIDR Programme Visit #2 -remove CIDR +PG +eCG	29 Sept	9 Oct	21 Oct
Planned Start Mating	1 Oct	11 Oct	23 Oct
CIDR Programme Visit #3 -inject Dalmarelin	1 Oct	11 Oct	23 Oct
CIDR Cows Blanket Mate	2 Oct	12 Oct	24 Oct
Check cows not submitted for AI	22 Oct	1 Nov	13 Nov
CIDR Programme Visit #1 -insert CIDR	22 Oct	1 Nov	13 Nov
CIDR Programme Visit #2 -remove CIDR +PG +eCG	29 Oct	8 Nov	20 Nov
CIDR Programme Visit #3 -inject Dalmarelin	31 Oct	10 Nov	22 Nov
CIDR Cows Blanket Mate	1 Nov	11 Nov	23 Nov
Cows mated after today may calve after planned start of mating 2020	15 Dec	25 Dec	6 Jan

**87% herd  
calved end week 6?**

**Top farmers  
achieve  
InCalf Benchmark**



**Nil Meat and Milk with-holding Tick Control**

**Breaks the tick life cycle  
Stops adults laying eggs  
Provides 3 - 6 weeks protection**

Bantix Pour-On is registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997 No A11154

