

**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



No rest for the wicked

Olaf Klein DVM

Calving has just finished and mating has come around too quickly. Since most of the production is done in the first part of the milking season a condensed calving pattern will stay the goal for years to come. For a successful mating season heat detection and submission rate are the key. The recording of pre-mating heats a month before the planned start of mating is a great tool to see how you are going, it becomes simple arithmetic to calculate a prediction of the three weeks submission rate before you will actually get there. You can decide early if you need to intervene to meet the target (like using CIDRs for example). Once you have done 3 weeks of mating and your submission rate was too low or your submission rate was on target but your returns too high, you have to decide if it was a cow or a heat detection problem. CIDR

Apply low rates of N, K and S to new pasture

intervention at this stage is more about getting enough replacements. On the other hand you could buy them in if you were not worried about losing a closed herd status. Or you could consider bull mating earlier than usual to have this option though you have to have enough bulls that are not lame or constantly fighting with each other. The point I am trying to make is that there are many ways to achieve production target, but that your decisions around mating will be one of the foundations of it. So, keep your eyes on the ball, secure your bull team early to get the adjusted to the farm and most importantly sort out early and accurate heat detection. Don't worry if the initial numbers do not stack up, the main thing is that you have recorded numbers to see the rate of progression.

Theileria

David Haugh BVSc

After the initial outbreak of the Ikeda strain of the blood parasite Theileria in the early 2010s, when some adult cattle became sick, in recent years I have only seen clinical disease in calves about 2 or 3 months old. Properties that get a lot of ticks are at risk. There may be Theileria carried in older stock but their

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immune systems keep it under control.

nymph (8 legs) attaches to a baby calf the Theileria transfer is made. It multiplies over time in the host's bloodstream. If the original challenge was very high this will lead to a serious anaemia (see pale mucous membranes). These calves are first noticed falling behind their mates when being moved. Various treatments have been tried to kill Thieleria, but nothing works in my experience. Death often follows. If this is happening on your property, my only advice is to treat/manage tick challenge as best as you can.

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



Vet Clinic Staff

Vets

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

Nurses

- Nikki Humfrey
- Aliscia Vujcich

Accounts

- Steph Treadwell

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- Karen Partridge

Opening stanza

Stephen McAulay BVSc

It is good to see some grass blowing in the breeze as we drive around, though most farms report that it is still a touch damp under foot.

Most dairy herds will be starting spring mating shortly and heat detection and bull power are key drivers of high in-calf rates. Ensure all service bulls are BVD tested and vaccinated. Nothing worse than to introduce BVD into your mating program and dealing with high empty rates and difficult calf rearing next season.

With the wet weather, lameness and mastitis are constant companions of most farming systems. Our recommendation is that should your bulk milk vat somatic cell count be higher than 250,000 then you should be hand stripping the herd weekly. Herd testing is the best method to identify sub-clinical mastitis and help control bulk milk SCC.

The range in size in last year's yearlings is dramatic this year. From some of the poorest which were not going to be mated to some of the biggest I have seen. This highlights the effects of not moving calves frequently and the hidden effects of facial eczema. Weighing replacements is the best method to confirm growth rates. It is tempting to leave weaned calves to clean up paddocks to the same residuals the milking herd achieves. Unfortunately, this will result in very low growth rates. Move calves when you think there is another two or three days of grass left.

Heifer sire selection

Stephen McAulay BVSc

With the rumours around reduced bobby calf collections and meeting Fonterra's and MPI's animal welfare targets many farms have "switched back" to running beef bulls with their yearling heifers. I am crying inside. I have spent the best part of the 20 odd years of veterinary work life trying to convince farmers to use "jersey" bulls across their heifers as this is the only guaranteed easy calver. (And not one of the 1/16th Friesian LIC jersey bulls either, the 1/16th can be problematic). One dairy farmer this year lost 4 heifers with calving paralysis to a "easy calving beef bull".

I was talking to a jersey breeder the other day; he mentioned the story of the use of a "Hereford" bull across their yearlings and having a disaster calving.

Expect peak performance from your working dogs every day? Feed Blackhawk and experience the difference. \$149 incl per 20kg bag.



The key to growing good replacements is not their weights at calving, it is the number of days from the start of mating (as 2-year-olds that they conceive). There is no point in raising a replacement for them to be empty in their first lactation.

Calving ease has improved dramatically in the beef breeds but play the conservative game.

Helping grow: people, animal health, profit

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 №011614.



The odd balloon cow

Celine Lye BVSc

I was called out one Sunday evening after hours to a dairy cow that the farmer said was bloated and uncomfortable. When I got there, I was confused if I was truly looking at a dairy cow, as she looked rotund like a beefie. Turns out, she had air filling up under her skin all over her body. We promptly treated her, and from the most recent update, she now has reabsorbed about half the gas she had. The cause is still a mystery but suspects include pneumonia or a non-typical presentation of clostridial disease. But how does the gas escape? If there is damage to the lungs or the chest, sometimes air can escape through the chest through an inlet called the mediastinum and to the surface which is under the skin. A regular pneumonia does not often present this way, so this is a very uncommon clinical sign. This is more commonly seen with a type of pneumonia called 'Fog Fever'. When lush pasture high in L-tryptophan is suddenly ingested, L-tryptophan is converted into toxic metabolites that cause damage to lung cells, bursting them and releasing air. The only way to get a full answer is likely from an autopsy, but looks like balloon girl is hopefully making a good recovery and won't come to that.



Ballooned up cow

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 2023	15 Dec	25 Dec	6 Jan

Get your bulls ready!

Nena Nepia BVSc

The role of bulls in your repro programme can vary considerably, from exclusively AI mating and using bulls for the heifers only, the traditional 6 weeks AI and 6 weeks bulls, or relying entirely on bull mating only (ie the beef farmer). Regardless of what is chosen, you rely on bulls as your fail-safe for reproduction, there to mop-up any not-yet pregnant animals.

There is little difficulty in preparing the bulls for mating, but it does require some timely planning and interventions:

Choose the right breed – this will largely depend on what the function of the calves are – ie heifer replacements, beef rearing. Easy calving breeds are a must for both cows and heifers – you don't want us out to come calve your animals any more than needed!

Right size – young bulls are 'clean' and less likely to introduce venereal diseases into the herd – but avoid anything younger than 15 months – they need to be well grown and sexually active. For mature cows, the bulls must be at

least 2/3 of the size of the cow (or he simply won't reach...), and for heifers, the bulls should not be more than 1/3 larger.

< 81% herd 3-week submission rate
Seek Help!
 InCalf Benchmark

Right number – how many bulls you'll need depends on your herd/mob size, and the predicted number of cows likely not to be pregnant. Dairy NZ has a helpful table

to calculate this. Remember the minimum is two per herd, as security against an undetected 'dud' bull or bull injury.

Tested & vaccinated – Insist that your bull-supplier provides a certificate to show the bulls have been BVD tested and vaccinated. They must have been blood tested, and then vaccinated twice 3-6 weeks apart, and will thereafter need to be boosted with a single shot annually. The same goes for lepto vaccination.

> 90% herd 3 week submission rate
Top farmers achieve
 InCalf Benchmark

Right condition – Bulls need to be at condition score 5.0 for mating, and will typically loose condition if not fed well, as they spend a lot more time chasing cows than eating during this time. They should look visually healthy, with no sign of lameness or limb deformities. Any ill health of the bull in the six weeks prior to mating will have a negative effect of sperm production – don't underestimate the impact this can have on conception!

Nil Meat and Milk withholding 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 № A11154



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

Boss Dual Active Pour-On is registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997 №10817

