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**First Time Oral Calf Drench: Eprinomectin & Levamisole**  
**The ultimate drench choice, deals to worms and coccidia in a single oral application**

Turbo Initial Oral Drench is registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997 N# 11703



*Wellsford*  
**VET CLINIC**

**The Mad Cow**  
 Client Newsletter

116 Rodney Street, Wellsford 0900. Ph 09 4238 008 Fax 09 4328 178

**COWS**  
**So long and thanks for all the fish!**

Nena Nepia BVSc

As many of you are aware, and by the time you read this article, I will have finished my time at Wellsford Vets and be busily clearing out the last of our house stuff ready to head back to my once upon a (long) time ago country of birth, the Netherlands.

My four years at Wellsford Vets have flashed by in a blur of hooves, paws, claws, and an impressive array of ..... bodily fluids. Despite Auckland creeping ever closer, Wellsford and its surrounds remain a small-town community where I have felt always welcomed.

I've loved caring for the beautiful, not so beautiful, sweet, mad-as-a-hatter, all-bark-and-no-bite animals, along with their perfectly normal owners (or is it the other way around?). Getting to know the farmers and witnessing the hard work and pride that go into their daily lives has been inspiring.

I won't quickly forget my inaugural trip to Tomarata, where I did the Pakiri Block Road loop in its entirety, and was going around for the second time, before I had enough cell reception to figure out that I was looking for number 1000, not 100.

Also memorable was the supposedly well sedated huge bull that after losing a horn,

leapt up and painted me, the farmer, the yard gate it crashed through and its fellow stunned herdmates red before lying down and promptly resuming snoring in the paddock. The bull was fine, but I'm not sure the farmer ever recovered from the emotional trauma.

I've sworn the ginger kitty must be male only to lift its tail and have to eat my words. I've been asked to de-desex a beloved dog so she could have puppies after all. I've proudly walked away from a completed calving only to be reminded by the farmer that I might want to also fish out the twin calf I mentioned earlier. I've been so busy yapping, the farmer couldn't get the word in to warn me about the cows' lifting tail and had excrement dumped all down my cap and overalls.

On a more serious note, it's been an absolute pleasure working at this clinic. Having a team that supports each other through the highs, the lows, and the occasional animal/owner-induced chaos is a rare kind of gold. It's something I'll treasure as I transition into small animal practice back in the Netherlands.

To all of you who have entrusted me with your animals, thank you. As I prepare for this next chapter, I'll carry with me the lessons learned, the stories shared, and a deep appreciation for the unique charm of this clinic and community. Wish me luck!

**Faecal sample to test for facial eczema**

**RMT or paddle test all cows with herd test SCC >400K**

**Want simple flea and tick control on your dogs? Treat your K9 mates with Simparica oral tablets**

NexGard is registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997 N#A011219



**Vet Clinic Staff**

**Vets**

- Rachel Blackie
- Steve McAulay *CEO*
- Nena Nepia
- Ingrid Spitze

**Nurses**

- Nikki Humfrey
- Alicia Vujcich

**Accounts**

- Steph Treadwell

**Receptionist**

- Karen Partridge

**Opening stanza**

Stephen McAulay BVSc

The small amounts of sporadic rain have maintained the green tinge to our district with many maize crops responding well. Stock prices have remained high with meat-works buyers paying considerably better than "works" prices. Whilst it is good to maintain a full chain, the price paid does make you wonder if we are on a level playing field.

Pasture rotation lengths should be out around 35 days. The issue of trying to maintain quality is important in Oct-early Dec, shorter rotations such that ryegrass is grazed at two leaves is acceptable and for best yearly pasture yield target three leaves for best grazing return.

We are still hearing reports of spring born calves coughing, which is normally associated with lung worm. Monitor your drenching intervals closely and always measure the amount of drench delivered at the start and end of a drenching event. Most drench resistance detected is actually from drenching incorrect volumes. Food for thought.

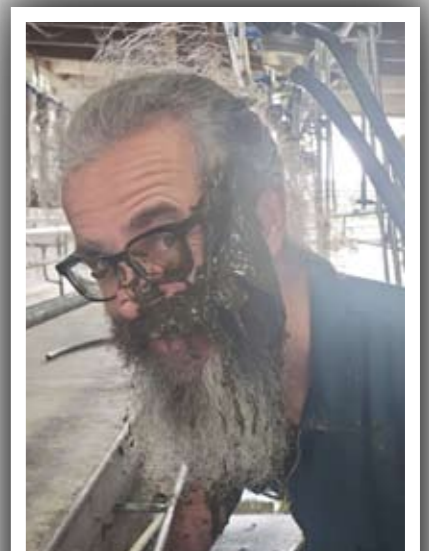
**Last statement**

Stephen McAulay BVSc

After 3 weeks short of ten years I am moving to greener pastures, I am well aware that some will feel "and not before time."

I have had the pleasure of managing a great bunch of people, something which always makes your job easier, and interacting with many more fabulous people. Community vetting in rural areas is always enjoyable when one takes the good with the bad. I have always tried to be honest and reliable, to be the same person every time we have interacted. Sometimes things go the way they were planned and sometimes they don't.

**Expect peak performance from your working dogs every day? Feed Blackhawk and experience the difference. \$156 incl per 20kg bag.**



**Overstayer or old & slow**

As the Two Ronnie's tv show always ended, It's good night from me, and its good night from him.

*Helping grow: people, animal health, profit*

## 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 № A11154



## Facial eczema

Ingrid Spitze BVSc

Facial eczema is a liver disease caused by a fungus living on dead plant matter. When conditions are warm and humid (humidity close to 100% and grass temperature over 12 C for 4 consecutive nights), fungi proliferate and produce spores which are ingested by animals grazing close to the ground. Spores are digested and their breakdown products cause liver inflammation which in turn results in the accumulation of chlorophyll breakdown products in the skin. These react with sunlight and cause tissue damage in unpigmented areas on the face, dorsum, udder, and inner aspects of hindlimbs seen as irritation, reddening, crusting and even sloughing of the skin.

A large percent of the liver needs to be damaged to get the clinical symptoms, and for every cow showing overt symptoms there are usually about 4-5 subclinical cows. First signs are usually a transient diarrhoea and a sudden drop in milk produc-

tion – Clinical cases have a drop of 2kg MS/cow/week and subclinical cases 1kg milk solids/cow/week usually about 2 weeks after exposure to high spore levels. Affected animals may dry off and can even die. Even if they survive and the liver regenerates itself in younger animals, they may have permanent damage.

Diagnosis is by a blood test and treatment is symptomatic – animals should be kept out of the sun, so prevention by monitoring spore levels and supplementing zinc at the appropriate time is most important.

Spore levels can be measured in pasture samples sampled from most susceptible areas or from pooled faecal samples of a representative number of animals in the herd. Different pastures or areas in a pasture may have varying spore levels, so the faecal samples are more accurate to what the animals are ingesting.

Zinc supplementation by dosing water troughs, feed additives or slow-release rumen boluses needs to be tailored to individual circumstances as it can become toxic if in excess. Bulk milk Zinc levels can give an indication of protective levels in the herd. Although usually a late summer and autumn disease, last year spore levels were high towards the end of January.

**Routinely check  
drench guns  
are delivering  
correct dosage**

**Check & record  
the expiry dates  
of drenches  
before use**

### 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.



## Keeping SCC down

Stephen McAulay BVSc

How can we have a January newsletter without an article about controlling the “late season” bulk milk somatic cell count rise.

Many farmers assume that this rise, even 200-250K above the October average, is normal and an accepted part of farming.

When my career first started, 20 odd years ago, probably 7 out of 10 farms had this issue (grading for several weeks before dry-off) and blanket dry cow therapy was almost unheard of. Many farmers thought that by using blanket dry cow therapy “all their problems” would be solved.

I have simplified herd mastitis and frequently extol the idea of “early calving mastitis” being due to Strep uberis and “repeat mastitis” is due to Staph aureus.

With herds with poor clinical mastitis detection and poor teat spraying another bacteria called Strep dysgalactiae, which is frequently subclinical (and you will find the problem quarter when RMT or paddle testing) can cause significant low grading level issues. Herds with this problem (Strep Dysgalactiae) have “amazing results” from blanket dry cow therapy. But this is not the norm, and I would suggest that this would be less than 1 out of 25 farms per year have this issue.

To prevent the end of season bulk milk SCC rise, regular hand stripping and targeting all cows for RMT testing >400K at herd test is a key control measure. Cows with SCC >400K at multiple herd tests are not good cows (even with good production and breeding worth figures) if they give their infection to a healthy 2 or 3-year old cows.

**>90% herd  
6 week incalf rate**  
**Top farmers  
achieve  
InCalf Benchmark**



**IT'S ABOUT TIME  
SOMEONE STARTED  
THINKING LIKE  
A FARMER.**

**TURBO® CATTLE  
DRENCH PROGRAMME**

**STAGE 1**  
TURBO® Initial  
Oral Drench

**STAGE 2**  
TURBO® Advance  
Oral Drench

**STAGE 3**  
TURBO® Pour On  
or Injection

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