



Issue **AUGUST 2013**

STAFF NEWS

Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to two long-standing members of staff over the past couple of months and both will be greatly missed.

Red Louise left at the end of May as she is expecting her third child in September and felt that three young children will be more than enough to keep her occupied. We would like to wish Louise, Ross, Amy and Claire all the very best for the future and their new arrival.

Having just told you about Sylvia's return to the clinic in the last newsletter, we are now sad to have to tell you that Sylvia left OVL at the start of June. Sylvia, Regan and baby Sophie made the big decision to move back to Germany and we would all like to wish them the best of luck for their new life together.

Some happier news is that Ashleigh will be returning from maternity leave later in the month and will be working on a part-time basis. We also hope that you will be pleased to hear that the rest of us are all here and ready for whatever Spring has in store.



**Staff Profile - Chelsea Lyon
-Reception/Store Manager**

Chelsea joined the OVL reception team in 2012 having worked for the government as a Debt Collector for several years. Chelsea grew up in Invercargill, but since returning from her OE around the UK and Europe, has been living on a farm near Otautau. Chelsea is yet another sporty outdoors enthusiast, with a particular interest in horses and equestrian sports.

SHOP TALK



Frontline Gardenia Garden Pack

We would all like to congratulate Linsey Bennett of Mount Brook Jerseys as the winner of the Frontline 'Give Fleas the Flick & get your Garden Slick' campaign. Unfortunately, with prizes including a Trowel & Fork set, Garden Hands, Secateurs, Hedge Clippers and a Hose & Sprinkler system, there is no excuse not to be out in the garden this Spring..... well apart from the cows calving and the calves to rear!

Merial Ancare Autumn Drench Promotion

Congratulations must also go to Andrew & Karen Mackie as the winners of the much anticipated Merial Ancare Fishing Prize pack. Hopefully, we will be blessed with wonderful spring weather and it will provide lots of opportunity for getting out on the water.



Rumenox

Rumenox is an innovative new product developed in New Zealand to aid in the control of bloat and Ketosis. The product works by adjusting the population of bacteria in the rumen, allowing the cow to digest feed more efficiently by producing more energy from the feed consumed. The end result not only controls the onset of bloat and reduces ketosis, but also increases milk protein production and improves cow condition. Due to the extended bloat-protection period provided by Rumenox (24-48hrs), herds that are susceptible to bloat will only need to be drenched once-daily.



Rumenox consists of monensin-containing dry-flow granules, for use in either in-line water dispensers or for oral drenching. The granulated form pours and mixes easily with no wastage, making the preparation less time consuming and the dosing more accurate. For more information on this product, go to glenmarkvet.com or call in and speak with one of our vets.

Rumensin

Rumensin Max is a new high concentrate form of Rumensin that replaces Rumensin Trough Treatment and Rumensin Drenchable Liquid. It is designed for use in both In-line water medication systems and power drenching systems.

Rumensin is a rumen modifier that works by improving the digestive efficiency of the rumen in converting feed into energy. The result is more energy from pasture or supplementary feeds, and less gas produced. This extra energy is used by the cow to reduce energy-related diseases, improve cow condition and increase milk production. Rumensin also aids in the control of bloat.

SHOP TALK cont

RVMs

Just a quick reminder about booking your Restricted Veterinary Medicine review for this coming season. Many of you have already updated your RVM's, but for those who haven't, please call the clinic and make an appointment at a convenient time. There is always the option of one of our vets coming out to your farm if this is easier for you and your staff.

Penclox 1200

Penclox 1200 is a new intramammary mastitis treatment which has been designed specifically for the treatment of mastitis in New Zealand dairy cows. The two predominant types of mastitis-causing

bacteria here in NZ are Staphylococci and Streptococci, the vast majority of which are sensitive to penicillin-based antibiotics. The only slight difference is that Staphylococci are more sensitive to Cloxacillin and Streptococci to standard Penicillin. With the dual action of these two antibiotics combined in Penclox 1200, you have covered both types of bacteria in one treatment. If you would like more information regarding this product, please speak to the vet at the time of your annual RVM consult or give us a call.

Alleva Drenches

We are now stocking two of the Alleva drench products that have been recently

advertised in the farming press. For more information, please call in and speak with a member of our staff.

Metabolics

Unfortunately, Calprophos & Calpromax will not be available this season, but we do have alternatives in store. If you would like some help to decide which product is most suitable for your farm, please have a chat with one of our vets. There have also been changes to the bag delivery system this season, so when purchasing Metabolics, please make sure you are familiar with the new set-up before leaving the clinic.

CATTLE SECTION

Colostrum Feeding Calves: Are they getting enough?

Maternally derived antibodies are essential in ensuring that all newborn mammals are protected from any bugs encountered in the first few weeks of life. In some mammals, these antibodies are transferred to the young via the placenta, but in ruminants the only transfer of maternal antibodies is via the colostrum.

Calves have a particularly challenging post-natal period due to the way in which they are intensively housed and managed. The compressed seasonal calving period means that large numbers of newborn calves are group housed, resulting in a build-up of bugs in the environment at a time when they are particularly vulnerable. As the season progresses, the number of infected and shedding animals increases resulting in a massive level of contamination of the calf sheds and calving areas by the end of calving. Good colostrum feeding practices must be in place and maintained throughout the calving period; the later-born calves have the highest disease challenge so there is no room for reduced standards towards the end of calving!

How much colostrum & when?

The ability for a calf to absorb the antibodies present in colostrum drops rapidly after birth and recent studies have indicated that a delay in colostrum feeding after birth by only two hours can adversely affect antibody absorption. After six hours, the volume of colostrum required to achieve adequate calf blood antibody levels goes up significantly; determined calves will get a good feed from mum, but if you are only picking up calves once or even twice a day, many calves will completely miss out. After 12-24 hours, the calf can no longer absorb the antibodies in the colostrum into the bloodstream.

As a bare minimum, calves should receive **2 litres of first milking colostrum in the first 6-12 hours and a total of 10% of their body weight in the first 24 hours** i.e. a 40kg calf needs 4 litres (split between two feeds) in the first 24 hours of life. You should not assume that all calves have had a feed from their mother; if in doubt, top them up when they arrive at the calf shed, either by bottle or stomach tube; Jersey calves and heifers' calves are at particular risk. Research has consistently shown that 25% of calves collected on a daily basis have had no colostrum at all.

It is also essential that the first thing that enters a calf's stomach is first colostrum; feeding electrolytes or milk replacer as a first feed can turn off the antibody absorption mechanism in the gut.

Which colostrum should we feed?

Only high quality, fresh colostrum from the first milking of mature cows should be fed to newborn calves. There is a difference in the antibody level of colostrum between cows and it is a general recommendation that colostrum from first-calvers should not be used as first-feed colostrum, but can be used for subsequent feeds.

The antibody concentrations are highest in the first milking colostrum; the antibody concentration of the second milking colostrum is half that of the first milking. The antibody concentration of colostrum is also reduced if the cows have been leaking milk prior to calving, if they have been milked pre-calving and also if there is a delay in milking post-calving.

Can we test to see if the calves have received adequate colostrum?

Failure of passive transfer is the term used to describe those calves that have not received adequate colostrum and at the correct time. This is a common underlying problem associated with most cases of sick and/or dying calves, with pathologists



estimating that 40-45% of calves tested showing inadequate colostrum absorption.

This can be assessed by measuring the maternal antibody levels in blood samples from calves less than seven days of age; 8-10 blood samples from young calves will give us an indication if colostrum feeding has been adequate.

How long should we feed Colostrum for?

The benefits of colostrum go beyond the first 24 hours of life; colostrum acts locally within the gut to protect the intestinal lining. There is definite benefit to feeding colostrum to calves after the first 24 hours of life due to this local gut scour protection effect; recent studies have indicated that calves should receive

colostrum for at least the first 5 days after birth. Colostrum from milkings three to eight should be refrigerated or preserved by natural fermentation; the fermentation process can be accelerated by adding live yoghurt as a starter e.g. EasiYo or ABC powder.

Colostrum is also good medicine for sick calves due to this gut protectant effect. Using colostrum in place of milk feeds in sick calves can be beneficial, particularly if you are experiencing an outbreak of Rotavirus; sourcing colostrum from Rotavec or Scourguard vaccinated cows can reduce calf losses to the infection.

If you would like to talk to a vet about colostrum management or the management of sick calves, please contact the clinic.

SHEEP SECTION

Brucella ovis Flock Accreditation Scheme

There appears to be a little confusion over the testing requirements for the Brucella ovis Flock Accreditation Scheme and in view of the cases popping up all round the country in both commercial and accredited-free flocks, I thought some clarification was necessary.

For a flock to gain accreditation, it is required that:

1. No new rams, other than from accredited free flocks, have been introduced within the previous two months.
2. All rams and teasers over 15 months of age, together with any rams less than 15 months of age which have been used for mating, must be palpated and blood sampled.
3. The scrotal contents of all sale rams are palpated within 3 months of sale for breeding purposes and those rams with palpable lesions, blood sampled and tested for B.ovis.

If no confirmed reactors are found in any of the tests, the flock may be accredited. If reactors are found and Brucella ovis infection is confirmed, procedures outlined for the accreditation of a known infected flock must be followed.

To maintain accredited status, retesting of ram flocks must be carried out on an annual basis and it is required that:

1. All stud rams and teasers over 15 months of age, together with any stud rams less than 15 months of age which have been used for mating, must be palpated and blood sampled.
2. All commercial rams over 15 months of age are palpated and blood samples taken from the whole flock or 20 rams, whichever is the least, together with any ram with palpable scrotal lesions.
3. The scrotal contents of all sale rams are palpated within 3 months of sale for breeding purposes and those rams with palpable lesions, blood sampled and tested for B.ovis.

If no reactors are found in any of these tests, the flock may maintain its accredited status.

If new rams and/or teasers are to be introduced to a flock, accredited status may be maintained provided:

- a) Introduced rams and/or teasers are from an accredited flock and have been transported in isolation from other sheep.
- b) The rams to be introduced are not from an accredited flock, but they have been isolated from other sheep for not less than 60 days following introduction to the property, and

shown to be serologically negative and free from scrotal lesions before they are mixed with the accredited ram flock.

- c) These same recommendations apply to rams from an accredited property that have been off the property on a temporary basis e.g. leased out for breeding or sale, or if the owner is concerned that they may have come in to contact with B.ovis infected rams.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding your flock accreditation testing, please contact the clinic and speak with one of the vets.

Selenium Toxicity in Lambs

Selenium supplementation of stock is widespread across New Zealand, but few are aware of how toxic higher doses are to stock and how small the safety margin is between health and toxicity. There are many selenium-containing products on the market and particular care should be taken when selecting products such as vaccines and drenches to ensure that they are suitable for use in young lambs. Injectable forms are also higher risk as the selenium content has the potential to be four times more toxic than the same concentration of selenium administered orally.

Three to four week old lambs are the most commonly affected age group as these lambs are usually given selenium at tailing. Lambs showing signs of selenium toxicity will generally die within 24-48 hours after dosing; they are either found frothing at the mouth with breathing difficulties or they are discovered dead. A diagnosis can be reached by measuring the concentration of selenium in the liver at post mortem.

These key points will help to reduce the risk of selenium toxicity in your lambs

Do not use injectable products containing selenium on very young lambs if you can avoid it. Oral selenium-containing products such as drenches are safer options.

Do not use more than one selenium containing product on the same lamb.

Always check the manufacturer's instructions on the product label.

Make sure you do not exceed a total dose of 1-2mg per lamb by any method.

If you have any concerns about selenium supplementation, please contact the clinic and speak with one of our vets before using the product.

