

## Pregnancy Testing

**Are you getting the most out of pregnancy testing your cows?**

If you only want a yes/no answer. Then you should scan your herd late in the season so there will not be so many slips that crop up as surprise empties next season. It is normal for up to 2% of cows to slip over an entire pregnancy.

We always manually check all the cows scanned empty at this stage because some early pregnancies have become quite large and fall down too deep in the cow for a scanner to pick them up. You don't want these early pregnant cows sent off to the works!

If however you want information about dates, late/earlies, induction and early culls. Then you need to be scanning earlier and the timing is important.

Chart 1: Estimation of Pregnancy Dates

Planned Start of Mating	Early Pd Dates	Late Pd Date
1 <sup>st</sup> October 2008	7 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> January 2009	)
10 <sup>th</sup> October 2008	17 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup> January 2009	) 6 weeks after the
15 <sup>th</sup> October 2008	22 <sup>nd</sup> Jan-4 <sup>th</sup> February 2009	) Bull has been taken out
20 <sup>th</sup> October 2008	27 <sup>th</sup> Jan – 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2009	)

It is not possible to date every cow individually very accurately at high speed. If someone says they can then be very sceptical. There are a number of options for getting good information. Early testing allows diagnosis of natural calvers and induction cows/empties. Later the induction/empty mob can be dated, once the bull has been out over 6 weeks. Again we always manually check these cows scanned empty because late pregnancies of 6-8 weeks are quite small and can be missed by the scanner. We often find pregnant cows scanned empty at this stage by lay scanners.

Pregnant cows are going to be at a premium this year so we don't want to miss any. This gives us more movement and range so we can scan lines of cows more easily without having to open and shut gates on small numbers. In many herringbone sheds we can turn cows around in the bails and walk along a whole line. In some herds we may also be able to vaccinate for leptospirosis at the same time. It is important to book early as scanning at the right time helps with accuracy. If you are unsure about timing call Barbara or talk to a vet.



*Bay Veterinary would like to wish you all a very  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!**  
Please Drive safe over this time and enjoy family and  
friends to the max.*

## Walking the Dog

A little girl asks her mum, 'Mum, can I take the dog for a walk around the block?'

Her mum replies "No, because she is on heat."

'What does that mean?' asked the child.

'Go and ask your father. I think he's in the garage.'

The little girl goes out to the garage and says, 'Dad, can I take Lulu for a walk around the block? I asked Mum, but she said the dog was on heat and to come to ask you.'

Rather than explain he took a rag, soaked it in petrol, and scrubbed the dog's backside with it to disguise the scent, and said 'Ok, you can go now, but keep Lulu on the leash and only go one time around the block.'

The little girl left and returned a few minutes later with no dog on the leash. Surprised, Dad asked, 'Where's Lulu?'

The little girl said, 'She ran out of petrol about halfway round the block, so another dog is pushing her home.'



Its widely known that copper sulphate and zinc sulphate or oxides are antagonistic towards each other.

For several years now we have been promoting the use of Availa Cu for your summer copper supplementation. To reward you for your support of Availa products Zinpro NZ are offering a local user a days Reef Fishing out of Tauranga, for Two.

Purchase a 200 Lt drum Availa Cu and automatically get a spot on the boat or purchase 60 Litres - enough for 300 cows for 40 days and receive three chances to enter the draw.



## MYCOTAK /MYCOWET

Mycotak and Mycowet applications are an excellent alternative to zinc products in an effort to reduce the effects of Facial eczema.

Having been out for a few years now, we are seeing some excellent results and understanding how the product works best. 40days control per application, spraying the farm in split applications using either helicopter or ground spread operations.

Mycotak/Mycowet is a preventative spray, which controls spores - it does not eliminate them totally. Spore counts up to 25,000 can still be found in treated pasture, which is considered acceptable.

Please contact Donna to organise this years applications  
Ph 304-9415



## Lepto Vaccinations are just around the corner

Just a timely reminder about Lepto vaccinations and why we bother to do this. The strain carried by cattle still accounts for around 50% of all human cases of Lepto of which there are still on average around 200 cases per year (in some years this is as high as 300). This is a genuine work place risk for farm workers, meat workers, truck drivers, mechanics of farm machinery and veterinarians and if you ask anyone who is unfortunate enough to have had Lepto they will tell you they wouldn't wish it on anyone!

So, it is important to take the time to plan your Lepto control measures carefully. If you're not a part of the Leptosure program be sure to allow some time with your vet to become better informed.

An animal that is infected before it can be protected by vaccination will potentially excrete bacteria in its urine for up to 18 months without showing any visible signs of infection. That's enough time to expose yourself and workers to a twice daily risk of infection. So... the timing of vaccinations is important. Guidelines for a low risk herd (defined as a spring calving herd with good colostrum management in a low summer rainfall area) are as follows:

- Calves born Jul/Aug/Sept are due for their first dose during February/March.
- Calves booster dose no more than 4-6 weeks after the first dose
- Cows and heifers annual booster from Jan-May

Remember to stick to a 4-6 week interval between doses. Outside of this interval a poor response is likely in a significant proportion of the vaccinated animals.

Please don't take any chances on this issue... have your animals fully protected by vaccinating at the appropriate times, Barbara will be in touch with your all in the new year to arrange visits.

### Using Zinc Correctly

We say this every year but for zinc to be as effective as possible, the cows must be on full doses before they eat any spores. Zinc levels must be very high in the liver to protect against the toxin and it takes time to achieve these high levels and also they drop quickly if the dose of zinc is lowered.

Drenching with zinc can achieve protective levels very quickly, within a week, but trough treatment is not as fast. The zinc sulphates are highly unpalatable and so lead-in period is required to get the animals used to the taste. It will take about 3 weeks to get high liver levels of zinc from trough treatment (based on 2 weeks increasing dose so cows get used to the taste and then 1 week on full dose.) If cows have been on full doses for a long period there is about a one week protection once zinc dosing is stopped.

Zinc treatment is not 100% effective even if using the boluses or daily drenching:

Time Capsule/Face-guard bolus	90% protection
Daily drenching	80-90% protection
Trough Treatment	70-80% protection

Young stock do not have a high enough water intake to rely on trough treatment. You can either drench them weekly with very high doses of zinc or use the Time capsule boluses.



## Pink Eye

The season for pinkeye is upon us and experience has shown for those farms that have Pink Eye problems, vaccination now with Piliguard can save you a whole heap of money and time later on. Clients who have vaccinated in previous years now stipulate this as part of their yearly animal health programme because it's been so successful.



But just a reminder when you have got signs of "Pinkeye" it's too late to vaccinate. Vaccination is possible but is more effective if given prior to an outbreak as vaccination in the face of an outbreak seems to have little effect. Speak to us if you have any concerns.

Initially animals may just show excess tear production with tear staining of the face. This is usually followed by severe conjunctivitis around the eyes itself with eye turning quite cloudy. Both eyes may be affected and result in blindness. Severe cases can result in rupture of the cornea and collapse of the eyeball and permanent blindness. Less severe cases may resolve over several weeks.

Treatment is usually successful especially if the animals are seen early. Affected animals should be isolated treated. The bacteria is usually killed rapidly by treatment but changes to the eye itself may take several weeks to resolve completely.

Pinkeye is very contagious so you need to separate affected animals until signs have cleared.



## Will I live to Be 80?

I recently picked a new primary care doctor. After two visits and exhaustive lab test, he said I was doing 'fairly well' for my age.

A little concerned about that comment, I couldn't resist asking him, 'Do you think I'll live to be 80?'

He asked, 'Do you smoke tobacco, or drink beer or wine?'

'Oh no,' I replied. 'I'm not doing drugs either!'

Then he asked, 'Do you eat rib-eye steaks and barbecued ribs?'

'I said,' No, my former doctor said that all red meat is very unhealthy!'

Do you spend a lot of time in the sun, like playing golf, sailing, hiking, or bicycling? 'No, I don't,' I said.

He asked, 'Do you gamble, drive fast cars, or have lots of sex?'

'No,' I said

He looked at me and said,....

'Then, why do you really care?'

## BE INTO WIN!

All farmers who request Eclipse Pour-on to be done at the same time as the Lepto Vaccinations go into the draw for a

**Hamper of goodies  
Valued at \$400.00**

