



Smithton Veterinary Service

May '05 Newsletter

Rewards: “5 Plus Club”

As of July this year we will be introducing a reward system for our loyal clients in the form of a discount on fees each month. Those of you who signed and returned your updated details form will automatically be eligible for a 5% discount on fees each month. Normal credit arrangements apply (i.e. overdue accounts will not be discounted). You will also receive notification of any special deals on vaccines, drenches, etc. that may become available from time to time.

Clients wishing to participate in the rewards system should return their updated details form before the end of June. If you have misplaced or lost your form please contact our office staff for a replacement.

***** ***DRENCH SPECIALS*** *****

*Please consult with us in relation to prices when considering pour-on and injectable drenching treatments. At present we have very competitive pricing on **Ivermectin** based products and **Dectomax** injection.*

Salmonella Vaccination Reminder

A quick reminder to all farmers who will be vaccinating their herds for Salmonellosis this year.

Now is the time to start thinking about ordering the vaccine and initiating the course.

In the first year all animals need two injections, about one month apart. To ensure colostral protection for the calf the last vaccination should be carried out 3-4 weeks prior to calving (no closer). Calves should then be fed good quality colostrum from vaccinated cows for at least 5 days after birth.

For example in a herd which starts calving on the 1st of August the ideal vaccination times would be on the 1st of June and the 1st of July. The timing of these can be altered slightly to fit in with other management practices, so if you have any questions give us a call.

If previously vaccinated then animals need a single injection three-four weeks prior to calving. In addition to being fed good quality colostrum from vaccinated cows for at least the first 5 days of life, calves should then be vaccinated at 8 and 12 weeks. Calves then need an annual booster similar to cows.

Any farmers that would like to vaccinate their herd who haven't already contacted us please do so ASAP so we can add you to our order list and beat the price rise due this year.

Mastitis Review and Planning

Countdown recommends you set aside a time to look back on the milking season that was and plan for the coming one.

Involve all those on the farm and use your records and figures to analyse what has happened, whether you have met your goals, whether you have acted on or ignored trigger points, whether you need to outside help and so on.

Consider herd testing as a key management tool in mastitis control.

Organise your milking machine checks, upgrades etc and ask for a written report. Act on any recommendations considered essential by the technicians.

Check, repair, replace, upgrade if necessary your teat disinfection systems. Also review the teat disinfectant you use and how it is applied. Check mixing instructions as labels can change without the consumer being told.

Remember that if you use an RTU product the emollient level can not be changed from the manufacturers level – with this in mind, consider using an RTU product with a higher level of emollient at calving early lactation stage and change to a lower level emollient product as the season progresses. Please ask for advice if you are unsure.

Set aside paddocks for calving that are likely to be the drier ones on the farm. Address areas that are likely to or have in the past caused udders to become muddy. It is important to minimise the possibilities of environmental bug contamination of udders in the high-risk period around calving/early lactation.

Defrost the freezer and throw away all those milk samples you collected last season – they are too old by now and it is important to realise that each milking season is a new one – different bugs may be involved. Ensure you have sterile sample tubes available and stress to all on farm the importance of sampling all clinical cases next season. These should be submitted or frozen as appropriate.

By the end of this process you should have an action plan for the coming season and all on the farm should be aware of their area of responsibility. Good and ongoing communication is essential.

Selective vs Blanket Dry Cow Treatment

The calving season is fast approaching and many of you will be planning to “dry off” soon. With this comes the inevitable decision of whether to treat your entire herd with dry cow treatments (Blanket therapy), or just those cows that have been problematic throughout the season (Selective therapy). If you follow the Countdown Downunder guidelines, this decision should be as easy as answering the following questions. (Modified from Countdown Downunder guidelines)

- Is your herd average BMCC for the last 6 months > 250,000 cells/ml?
- Do more than 30% of your cows have peak ICCCs >250,000?
- Did you have more than 5 clinical cases per 100 cows in the first month of lactation?
- Did you have more than an average of 2 clinical cases per 100 cows per month after the first month of lactation?
- Did you have more than 2 clinical cases per 100 cows per month in either of the last 2 months of lactation?
- Do your milk cultures indicate the presence of Strep. agalactiae or significant numbers of Strep. uberis?

If you answer “No” to **all** questions → use Selective DCT

If you answer “Yes” to **any** question → use Blanket DCT

Countdown Downunder also recommends the use of Blanket DCT if you have less than 3 ICCCs for each cow. When using blanket therapy remember to treat all quarters of all cows. If you decide to use selective therapy then treat all quarters of any cows with one or more ICCCs above 250,000 cells/ml during lactation or any cows that have had a clinical case during lactation.

HAPPY DRYING OFF!!