

### July Checklist:

**Mastitis:** Check all cows thoroughly for signs of mastitis at each milking while they are in the colostrum mob. Have a standardised system so that every milker knows what is normal, and what is mastitis.

**Calving:** If calving a cow always check for a second calf!

**Reproduction:** Have a plan. Don't miss your tailpainting start day.

**Inducing Cows:** Collect an induction form if you want to induce any cows.

**Drench Specials:** Purchase 3 x 5Litres Eprinex Pour On and get 1 x 5L Free. 20litres of Eprinex to treat 400 cows for \$2040(incl GST). If you only need two or three packs talk to us about a special price.

**Banned Drugs** Don't forget the 25th August is the last date for using these products.

**PAR Consults** If you haven't done this please organise a time. You will need the authorization for your shed records.

### Lucky Envelope Promotion Continues Through August

Through July we have given out heaps of prizes to lucky shoppers with our lucky envelope promotion but as yet no one has won one of the Kambrook Grills, we still have four to be won. We will continue this promo through August on selected shop products. There is also still caps, beanies, bags, aprons, chocolate bars, lollies and pineapple lumps to be won. Simply purchase one of the products in the shop (such as a box of metabolics) which has a pink or yellow envelope on it and you win the prize in the envelope.

### New treatment for Cryptosporidium

Cryptosporidium is a disease often seen in calves 1 to 3 weeks of age. Typically these calves have marked gut pain and won't drink, followed by scouring and dehydration which often lasts 5 to 7 days. The disease is highly infectious with calves becoming infected by his/her mother and then spreading it rapidly throughout the calf pen. This can be a very expensive and frustrating disease to treat as the calves often relapse.



**HALOCUR** is a new product designed to treat and prevent the spread of cryptosporidium.

### Calf Scours

Calf scours no matter what the cause affect calves by dehydration and an electrolyte imbalance. The key to a successful outcome is early detection, prompt action and adequate and appropriate **electrolyte therapy**.

There are many causes of calf scours such as:

- Nutritional causes such as overfeeding, poor milk quality
- Infectious causes such as Rotavirus, Cryptosporidia, E. Coli and Salmonella

#### Electrolyte solutions

These replace the fluids and electrolytes that are lost, correct the losses that are on going and provide some energy although this is of less significance.

For calves less than 1 week withhold milk for no longer than 24 hrs. Give 2 to 4 litres of a good quality commercial electrolyte such as 'Revive' or 'Enervade' on day 1 and consider giving a litre of colostrum for very young calves. On day 2 give 2 to 4 litres of electrolytes with a 2 litre colostrum feed in the middle of the day.

Don't mix electrolytes with milk, fed as separate feeds at 6 hours apart.

Home brew mixes are ok for older calves but stick to commercial mixes for the very young calves. **Don't think stronger is better as concentrated electrolytes especially dextrose or glucose can be worse and actually draw water into the gut.** Stick to a recipe.

#### **Infectious Cause Treatments**

For Cryptosporidia using **Kryptade** as your electrolytes is helpful. A new product **Halocur** is also useful for treatment and prevention. (see separate article)

**Pink Scour Tablets** or **Scourban** provide antibiotic cover for bacterial causes. These are good to use in calves not getting better with electrolytes or if you are have calves dying with scours.

A Russian woman married a Canadian gentleman and they lived happily ever after in Toronto . The poor lady was not very proficient in English, but did manage to communicate with her husband. The real problem arose whenever she had to shop for groceries. **One day, she went to the butcher and wanted to buy chicken legs. She didn't know how to put forward her request, so, in desperation, clucked like a chicken and lifted up her skirt to show her thighs. Her butcher got the message and gave her the chicken legs.** Next day she needed to get chicken breasts, again she didn't know how to say it, so she clucked like a chicken and unbuttoned her blouse to show the butcher her breasts. The butcher understood again and gave her some chicken breasts. **On the 3rd day, the poor lady needed to buy sausages. Unable to find a way to communicate this, she brought her husband to the store.....**

(Continued over)

What were you  
Thinking?

Her husband speaks English!

### “At Risk” Dirty Cows.

#### Don't miss the window of opportunity!

High empty rates continue to affect many farms and one of the possible causes is dirty cows.

- Recent studies would suggest many cows who are dirty become sub clinical which still stops them getting in calf but are unable to be picked up when we Metriceck. This means the obvious pus has gone but there is still an infection in the lining of the uterus. We have a window of opportunity to find these cows if we check your at risk cows between 2 and 4 weeks after calving before they become sub clinical.
- Recent research has also shown the earlier we treat these cows the better the cure rate.

You will end up checking and treating more cows but when you get to the start of mating you should have less infected cows and hence better in calf rates.

Anything that increases the contamination of the uterus at or around calving will make that cow more likely to get an infection and if this goes on to mating will significantly reduce her fertility. The main risk factors are: retained membranes, induced or aborted cows, having a dead calf or twins and any assisted calving. As an example a cow who retains her cleanings if untreated will have a 25% empty rate.

Whilst metri-checking the whole herd pre-mating is still very worthwhile it is also wise to **record your “at risk” cows now** and getting them checked and treated during August once the mad rush has settled.

### Extended Therapy for Mastitis A Great Option for Difficult Cases

Extended therapy for mastitis is a very worthwhile exercise. For years three treatments has been the norm however it would appear by extending the number of tubes we can increase cure rates, especially with bugs like Staph Aureus. It makes perfect sense. When we have a sick cow we keep giving an injectable treatment until it gets better. We need to do this with mastitis cases. If after three tubes the mastitis is better but not cured then continue for another 3 tubes of the same treatment. If it is no better then maybe consider a different treatment or add in an injectable product.

If you do extend therapy then the withholding period will change. Many of our products now have a 6 tube withholding period so these are good products to be using. Your PAR consult is a good time to discuss these options.

## CALF DISBUDDING

We continue to offer our premium disbudding service using a sedative and local. Doing them between 2 and 6 weeks old is the best time so there will be calves ready to do soon once the weather has improved. Whilst sedating calves makes the debudding real easy it does come with some risks and we have had an occasional death. In virtually all deaths the calves have been scouring so making sure your calves are healthy when we debud is the best way to minimize any risks. If you want to discuss the risks please talk to one of the vets before booking them in.

### PAIN MANAGEMENT AT DISBUDDING

Disbudding of calves is a painful procedure. Calves often display ear flicking and head shaking which are classic symptoms of pain. Recent trial work has shown that this pain can be greatly reduced for at least 28 hours following disbudding by giving calves an anti-inflammatory such as Metacam. Something to consider when disbudding your calves. This is also suitable for you to use if you are disbudding your own calves.

## FILL YOUR OWN ENERGY DRENCHES

We still have bulk packs of our two energy drenches available for FILL YOUR OWN container in the store. The two products we will have open are:

**Over the Moon** This is a our premium product made with high quality ingredients delivering 15MJME per litre. Contains fast acting sources of calcium, magnesium, Vit B12 plus molasses, MPG and Soya bean oil. This will retail for **\$9.50 per litre incl gst** (compared to \$12.50 in a 20L)

**Cow Boost** This is our commercial energy mix made with more mainstream sources of calcium and magnesium but still giving 13MJME per litre. It's main point of difference to other similar products is that it's energy source comes from soya bean oil which means the product is free flowing under all weather conditions and so easy to administer. This will retail for **\$5.00 per litre incl gst** ( compared to \$7.00 in a 20L).

Please make sure your containers are clean and suitable for animal remedies. An empty container from the same product would be the best so maybe consider buying a 20L to get started. We will rely on your honesty and tidiness to ensure this is a success so please be careful and mindful of others when filling your containers.

**Congratulations to Anton and Shelley with the arrival of their first child. A baby boy born on 27th July 7lb4oz.**