

JUNE 2016

87 ORCHARD ROAD  
NGATEA 078677056

## July Checklist

### RVM

Arrange a time to come in and sign off your RVM consult and stock up your cupboard with some supplies for the spring. It only takes a few minutes and we don't charge for it. This year we have a new anti-inflammatory product available - KetoMax 15%.

### Lepto Vaccination

All of your stock from calves through to cows require an annual lepto booster. This includes calves that received their 7 in 1 late last year, if you vaccinate them soon this will put them in sync with the rest of the stock. We recommend getting your herd done before your animals are divided into too many groups.

### Scour Vaccination

The scour vaccinations given to cows protect calves against coronavirus, rotavirus and E. coli. These should ideally be done 3 weeks before calving. We recommend vaccinating naïve animals with rotavec. Animals that have previously been vaccinated can be vaccinated with rotagal. We can do this at the same time as your lepto vaccinations.

### Calf pen ready and sprayed out.

Bugs such as crypto can be carried over from one year to the next in calf pens. It is important to spray them out once new bedding has been added. Vetsan "Super" Concentrate is a revamp of the Vetsan previously on the market. It is more concentrated and much more reasonably priced so a really good option. It comes in a 1 or 5 Litre option and you can use at two strengths—one for before the calves go in and then a lower strength for weekly spraying.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Arthur Jones, the winner of the Faceguard Hunting and Fishing voucher

## KetoMax 15%

We have a new NSAID product in store this year that you may want to consider adding to your RVM.

KetoMax is an affordable drug that is administered intramuscular in 10 mL doses (to 500kg cows)



It acts rapidly and lasts for 24 hours to treat pain, fever and inflammation. Uses include metritis, difficult calvings, down cows, respiratory disease, mastitis and lameness. It is safe to use around calving, some other short acting anti-inflammatories have been associated with a slight increase in retained foetal membranes.

Withholding milk nil, meat 2 days

## Drench Promotion

Buy Eclipse products and go in the draw to win an ice box filled with goodies. 5 Ltr and 2.5Ltr Pour ON qualify.



## SPRING SATURDAY OPENING HOURS

The Ngatea clinic shop will again open on Saturday mornings for the spring period. It will be open from 10.00 till 12.00 from 9th July.

## Calf management

Getting your calves off to the best start will set them up for a future of producing quality milk for your farm. It all starts on day one. The most important thing is ensuring calves receive an adequate amount of good quality colostrum. Calves absorb antibodies from the milk in the first hours after birth, absorption rates then decline and by 12 hours of age, very little antibodies will be absorbed from the colostrum. So it is essential that they get a feed of colostrum as soon as possible. It's also important that the colostrum they are getting for this first feed is good quality colostrum. The best colostrum is from the first few milkings post calving and from those cows that were vaccinated against scours. If it is feasible, consider milking the newly calved cows separately, to obtain this premium colostrum to give to the newest calves and then give the older colostrum to the older calves.

Hygiene is key to the management of calves. Ensure pens are kept hygienic, including the pen on the back of the tractor that the calves first come into contact with. Isolate sick calves from the main mob as soon as they are identified to minimise the spread of disease through the calves.

## Trusti Tuber

The Trusti Tuber is a new product on the market to ensure calf feeding is a breeze.

It's features include:

- flexible tube to provide maximum comfort and safety for the calf
- transparent durable tube is long lasting and easy to see when clean
- easy swallow safety tip specially designed to flex around the airway
- easy to clean, run warm soapy water through after using and air dry
- fast flow even with thick colostrum
- calf size indicators - provides a guide for optimum placement

We have these available for purchase in the clinic.



## Health & Safety New Rules

Recently Peter went to a local seminar on the new H & S Rules and implications and as part of a regular part of the newsletter will put forward some thoughts. Some will be opinion and much will be centered around what we are going to do with our business but there hopefully will be some helpful hints.

As you are well aware there have been new H & S rules come into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. There has been so much information published in the media that it is hard to trust what is correct. It is very daunting when we all look at it but it is important, not just because of the fines that are now likely but also because people getting injured and not being at work is a far greater problem, not to mention the costs associated with employing new people.

Everyone is responsible, not just the employer, that makes it a team responsibility to keep everyone safe. Get the team involved and work together.

Assign levels of risk to different hazards and concentrate first on those with a higher risk.

Document, train and sign off. Regular staff meetings are a good way to achieve this.

Below I have detailed a list of hazards that we will work through initially.

- Leptospirosis vaccinations and prevention measures
- Proper care and handling of medicines and needles
- Proper restraint of animals, in particular the use of head bails for examining around the head.
- Platforms for standing on to examine cows, in particular for pregnancy testing.
- Accompanying farmers on motorbikes across paddocks to cows

Over the next few months we will discuss these hazards and strategies to prevent injuries and together work towards creating a safer workplace for all concerned.