

Large Animal Product Detailer June 2014

June is upon us already! Hoping that dry-off went well for our Dairy clients, and that you have time for a breather before Spring. Please spare some thought for your Spring requirements and let us know, so we can order in time.



Following dry cow treatment

Cows are susceptible to new infections, particularly in the first week of the dry period before the teat canal has sealed.

- Do not milk again after dry cow treatments.
- Continue feeding at maintenance levels for 7 days after drying off.
- Observe all cows every day for the first week after drying off while the cows are in the paddock. Check for particularly swollen udders or cows showing signs of illness. Bring any suspect cows into the dairy and check the udder manually.
- Inspect all quarters of all cows weekly for at least 3 weeks. Feel for hot/swollen quarters and only remove milk or secretion if the quarter is suspected of having clinical mastitis.

If you discover a case of clinical mastitis:

- Separate the infected cow from the main herd.
- Strip quarter out completely and administer lactating cow antibiotics using a full course of treatment (dry cow antibiotics are NOT suitable at this time).
- Record treatment details.
- Spray teats after each treatment or examination with normal teat sanitiser.

Managing Mastitis. A Practical Guide for New Zealand Dairy Farmers.



A healthy teat is one of the best defences against mastitis.



Practise good milking hygiene and service the milking machine regularly, to prevent teat damage.

THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

- Work out Rotavec requirements
- Work out Bionic needs
- Look at mineral supplements

Eweguard:

Eweguard is back in stock this year.

This is a drench, which also contains 6 in 1 vaccine, so you can do it all in one shot pre lambing.

Eweguard comes two ways, one is with Selenium, and one is without selenium.

This is a great alternative to capsules if you wish to



inject.

BIONIC CAPSULES

With winter fast approaching; it's time to plan for the long-acting mineral supplementation and endectocide for ewes and lambs over this time. Bionic releases two actives – abamectin and albendazole, as well as Selenium and cobalt, continuously for ~ 100 days.

Please let us know of your needs for Bionic.

Rotavec® Corona Is Back!



One shot. Healthy calves.

Please Contact us with your Rotavec requirements.

Mineral Supplements with Winter Feeds.

Copper requirements for dry cows on brassica crops

Cows are at greater risk of copper deficiency on brassica crops than sheep, due to the relatively higher requirement for copper by cattle. Pregnant cows in late gestation are at particular risk of copper deficiency because the calf preferentially accumulates liver copper reserves during the last few weeks of pregnancy.

Brassicacs are more likely to induce copper deficiency in cows than non-brassicacs feeds because they contain low concentrations of copper. High sulphur levels in brassicacs further challenge uptake of copper from the gut.

To avoid potential problems of copper deficiency through the winter, the copper status of cows should be assessed, preferably by liver biopsy, before dry off (typically during May). Copper status may be 'topped up' at dry off with the use of copper injections or oral copper 'bullets,' following the advice of your veterinarian.

Selenium requirements for dry cows on brassicacs .

Selenium is essential for an enzyme, glutathione peroxidase (GSH-px). This enzyme plays an important role in reducing or preventing the effects of 'red water' in cows feeding on brassica crops, which is caused by the SMCO toxin. A sub-optimal selenium and GSH-Px status may increase the susceptibility of the cow to the effects of SMCO. Brassica crops do not typically contain high levels of selenium, however levels depend on soil selenium status. The use of selenium fertilisers can increase the selenium concentration of the brassica plant. Low selenium status may also compromise the iodine status of cattle.

As for copper, selenium status of cows going onto brassica crops should be checked before drying off using liver selenium or serum selenium levels. Selenium can be 'topped up' using selenium injections such as Selovin 5 or Selovin LA.

Iodine requirements for dry cows on brassica crops

Dry cows eating winter brassica crops may suffer from either a primary iodine deficiency (not enough iodine in the feed) and/or secondary iodine deficiencies (caused by compounds called goitrogens blocking the uptake of iodine by the cows' thyroid gland) Forage brassicacs contain low levels of iodine and can contain high levels of goitrogens.

Iodine deficiency may extend the duration of pregnancy and increase risk of stillbirths and poor viability of newborn stock.

Supplementation with injectable Flexidine can help to correct these problems.

"Brassica Wintering for dairy Cows; overcoming the challenges"
Westwood, Dumbleton, Amyes, Wrightson.

Nitrate Toxicity on Winter Crops.

Nitrate poisoning is one of the major health risks when feeding any winter forage crop to dry cows. Clinical signs include cows that go down with apparent milk fever, or if standing, will appear uncoordinated with an increased respiratory rate. Cows may simply be found dead. Surviving animals may abort their calves.

Nitrates are reduced by rumen microflora to potentially harmful nitrites and finally ammonia, which is incorporated to microbial protein. At low nitrate levels, conversion to ammonia renders nitrates harmless. At high nitrate levels, the rate of conversion of nitrite to ammonia is insufficient, nitrites accumulate within the rumen and are absorbed into the blood. Nitrites convert haemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying component of red blood cells, to methaemoglobin. Methaemoglobin cannot carry oxygen in the blood, therefore clinical signs of nitrate poisoning typically reflect a lack of oxygen to the tissues.

Key factors that increase the concentration of nitrate in brassica plants are periods of rapid growth after periods of drought or frosting, and the use of nitrogenous fertilizers.

The risk of nitrate toxicity is reduced by the gradual adaptation of cows onto the crop at the beginning of the dry period, with cows initially on the crop for no more than 1 hour per day. Feeding hay to cows and making sure hungry cows are filled up first with other feeds before accessing the crop, will reduce risk of toxicity.

We can perform nitrate tests for you, on a representative sample, or you can purchase test kits from us, so you can better know the status of your crops.

INSTORE PROMOTION

SEND 'EM PACKING

GIVE YOUR CATTLE A HOLIDAY FROM MAJOR PARASITES.
Treat with selected Merol Arcare products to send parasites packing and you'll get this sturdy and compact Mazonic 60L Koru Bag worth \$399!

PLUS-GET IN THE DRAW TO WIN ONE OF TWO TRAVEL PACKAGES WORTH \$100 EACH!

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