



SALMONELLA

We are continuing to diagnose new cases of Salmonella in dairy cattle.

There are two strain types involved, the northern farms have cultured salmonella bovismorbificans and the southern farms have grown salmonella typhimurium.

It is not always clear what has triggered the outbreaks on these farms. Other investigations have implicated pH changes associated with granulated magnesium products, magnesium overdoses and acidosis.

Salmonella is an emerging disease in our area, and MSD reports that sales of their Salvexin-B vaccine have increased significantly in Northland over the past 18 months.

We are strongly recommending herds in our area to start a preventative vaccination program. The Salvexin-B vaccine covers both of the strain types we are seeing.

A herd level outbreak of disease is expensive, and also presents a human health risk. The presence of salmonella in food producing animals is not a great look for the industry.

SUMMER DISEASES

Mastitis

Warm rains in late November have caused a spike in mastitis. This is predominantly Strep mastitis, although there is also some E.coli mastitis showing up.

The common antibiotics generally do not have a spectrum that covers E.coli mastitis. Nationally, E.coli only accounts for 7% of clinical mastitis so it is hard to justify the routine use of the advanced antibiotics that do.

The exception would be farms using on farm milk culture systems.

Thiamine deficiency

We typically start to see sporadic neurological cases in calves from now on as pasture enters the reproductive stage. Thiamine (B1) deficiency causes polioencephalomalacia which is a form of brain swelling. It usually starts as blindness which progresses to a 'down calf' with characteristic 'star gazing' behavior.

Early treatment with injectable thiamine can be life saving.



Intestinal worms

Warm wet conditions with plenty of sward cover to prevent drying out are ideal for worm egg survival.

Routine drenching of calves with at least a double combination drench should be occurring at 28 day intervals.

- 1) This prevents disease and maximises growth rates now
- 2) It reduces parasite build up and challenge in the Autumn

Facial Eczema

It is time to start slowly adjusting cows to the taste, and building up zinc levels to preventative dose rates.

We are aiming to deliver **zinc oxide** at **2.5 to 3.0 gms/100kg Lwt/ day** by January 15 which is when we tend to see spore counts rising.

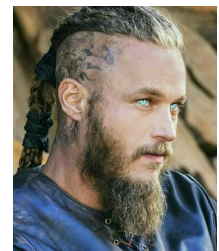
Zinc sulphate is suitable for trough treatment and in-line water dispensers.

Its bitter taste means it is important to slowly increase dose rates.

Zinc monohydrate: 5gms/100kgLwt/day

Zinc heptahydrate: 8 gms/100kgLwt/day

**** facial eczema risk is variable between farms and seasons, drop in a bread bag of grass for a spore count if unsure.**



Pink eye

We are starting to hear of a lot of cases of pink eye in young stock, and it looks like seed head and early summer conditions are going to contribute to spread.

Most cases start as a weeping eye, which progresses to a cloudy eye, then a white central ulcer, and eventually rupture if untreated.

Injectable Orbenin Pink eye ointment (+ white penicillin and anti-inflams if severe) are usually effective.

Preventative vaccination with Piliguard should be considered if this is a reoccurring problem on your farm.

Pregnancy Testing

Most spring calving herds will be looking to pregnancy test early in the new year.

We prefer early pregnancy testing as;

- 1) We can provide more accurate ageing
- 2) It is safer for the cow as the fetus is still sitting up high in the pelvis, which means less pressure with the probe.

The fetus needs to be >42 days before we reliably see it:

- 1) January 10: most fetuses are visible and can be measured. Accurate ageing, but empties will need to be rechecked (which isn't a bad idea anyway).
- 2) February 10: fetuses start to drop out of view, however we can default to AI dates on these. Empties don't necessarily need rechecking.
- 3) March 10: most fetuses are dropping out of view. We can identify 'lates', and empties don't need rechecking.

Brucella ovis testing

Rams require a breeding soundness exam before mating. This involves checking the testes for abnormalities and scrotal manage, as well as routine B.ovis blood testing.



KAM+VETS

