

DAIRY AWARDS 2022

As the winter 'break' seems to disappear before our eyes most of us are focused on preparing for the busy season ahead, but it is also important to remember to celebrate the successes of the season just been.

We had the privilege to host the annual Dairy Awards at the Rangiora RSA to acknowledge those who have performed above and beyond the normal in the past season. This was a great opportunity for everyone to catch up over a shared meal and congratulate each other. Rico presented to us on the future of farming and the technology that will soon be available to us to further improve cow health and production systems. We would again like to acknowledge and appreciate the following farm teams for their exceptional performance.

Congratulations to all our winners:

Fertility award: **Wilcock Farming Ltd**

Best Heifer Rearing: **Eyrewell Dairy Ltd**

Milk quality award: **Groningen Farm Ltd**

Honorable mentions go to **Avalon Dairy Ltd** and **Keilder Farm** for most improved Milk quality and Fertility respectively.

RVC has always been proud to be a part of farmers achieving success and these awards have been a part of this; congratulations to all the winners!



CHECK OUT THE HIGHLIGHT REEL  Rangiora Vet Centre - Farming



24hr/7day emergency care Ph: 03 313 7438

Cnr Lehmans & Oxford Rds, (181 Lehmans Rd), Rangiora
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July 2022
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GET YOUR HERO PERFORMANCE READY THIS SEASON AND ENTER THE DRAW TO

WIN

ONE OF TWO UBCO ELECTRIC WORK BIKES WORTH \$7,499!

UBCO MULTIMIN

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NEW

Visit the **DAIRY** section on our website
www.rangioravetcentre.co.nz
to not only read our newsletters as they happen + now you can read articles by topic in the

NEW SECTION
DAIRY NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

TELL US what topics you'd like covered and we'll do our best to get it written to

READ AT YOUR CONVENIENCE!

Calf rearing seminar 2022

CHECK OUT THE HIGHLIGHT REEL  Rangiora Vet Centre - Farming

The format of the Calf Rearing Seminar was shaken up a bit this year, with a more practical and hands on approach employed to get more engagement with the attendees.

We were lucky to have Penny from MSD come along to help the farm team out on stations such as shed hygiene, calf tubing and electrolytes, and colostrum quality and access after birth. If you want to have a look at what the morning looked like check out the Rangiora Vet Centre Farming Facebook page.

We thank everyone who made the effort to attend, we hope you had a few takeaway points which will help you and your calves in the season to come!



Calf scours

By John Spearpoint

If you're having multiple calves scouring, non-responsive to treatment, or think there may be a problem, then a rapid scour test performed at the clinic could be beneficial. Our large animal vets or disbudding techs can collect a sample from sick pens at the end of their disbudding visit.

These are quick and effective tests for the detection of rotavirus, cryptosporidium, E.coli K99 and bovine coronavirus. Calf scour samples can also be sent to the veterinary diagnostic laboratory for salmonella and coccidiosis.

This year we are assisting Zoetis in collecting samples from positive rotavirus cases to aid further research into different strains of rotavirus. If you happen to have rotavirus detected, then let us know.



Meet our new vet

Jevan Eady

Large Animal Veterinarian BVSc

Jevan (Pronounced like “Kevin” but with a “J”) Graduated from Massey University in 2017 and spent the following 4 years working as a mixed animal vet in South Waikato, before moving back to Canterbury to pursue a more dairy orientated role with the RVC Large Animal team in July 2022. Along with dairy cattle he also has a special interest in deer.

When Jevan takes his Vet hat off, he’s into pretty much anything that gets him outside and moving, sports, river rafting, hiking, snowboarding etc. He is a nature enthusiast, food lover and loves a good coffee and a book too.

Canterbury born and bred he was raised in south Canterbury in the small town of Southbridge where a couple of sheep, chickens, plus several cats and dogs cradled his passion for animals. This combined with a scientific background from his parents led him to pursue a veterinary career from an early age.

2 days before leaving the Waikato he was adopted by a little cat dubbed “Sprite”. A black and white DMH with a gloriously fluffy tail and face markings to rival Gene Simmons. After living in 4 houses in as many months they are both happy to have settled in Rangiora and look forward to exploring all the area has to offer.



Key *proposed* changes to the dairy cattle code of welfare

The code of welfare for dairy cattle is currently being reviewed and updated.

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) are consulting on the updated minimum standards and best practice requirements.

These proposed changes will directly affect dairy farmers and can be viewed/downloaded from the MPI website.

The *proposed* changes that are particularly related to calves have been summarised below:

- All newborn calves removed from their dam must be offered sufficient good quality colostrum/a quality colostrum substitute as soon as possible after, but within 2 hours of being picked up. This is to ensure that any calves that have not sucked from their dam receive colostrum within 24 hours after birth.
- For the first 3 weeks of life calves must be fed a suitable good quality liquid feed at a rate of no less than 20% of their body weight divided into no less than 2 feeds per day.
- A calf must be given suitable liquid feeds until the rumen has developed sufficiently to allow it to utilise solids as the sole feed source but must not be fully weaned off milk before 6 weeks of age.

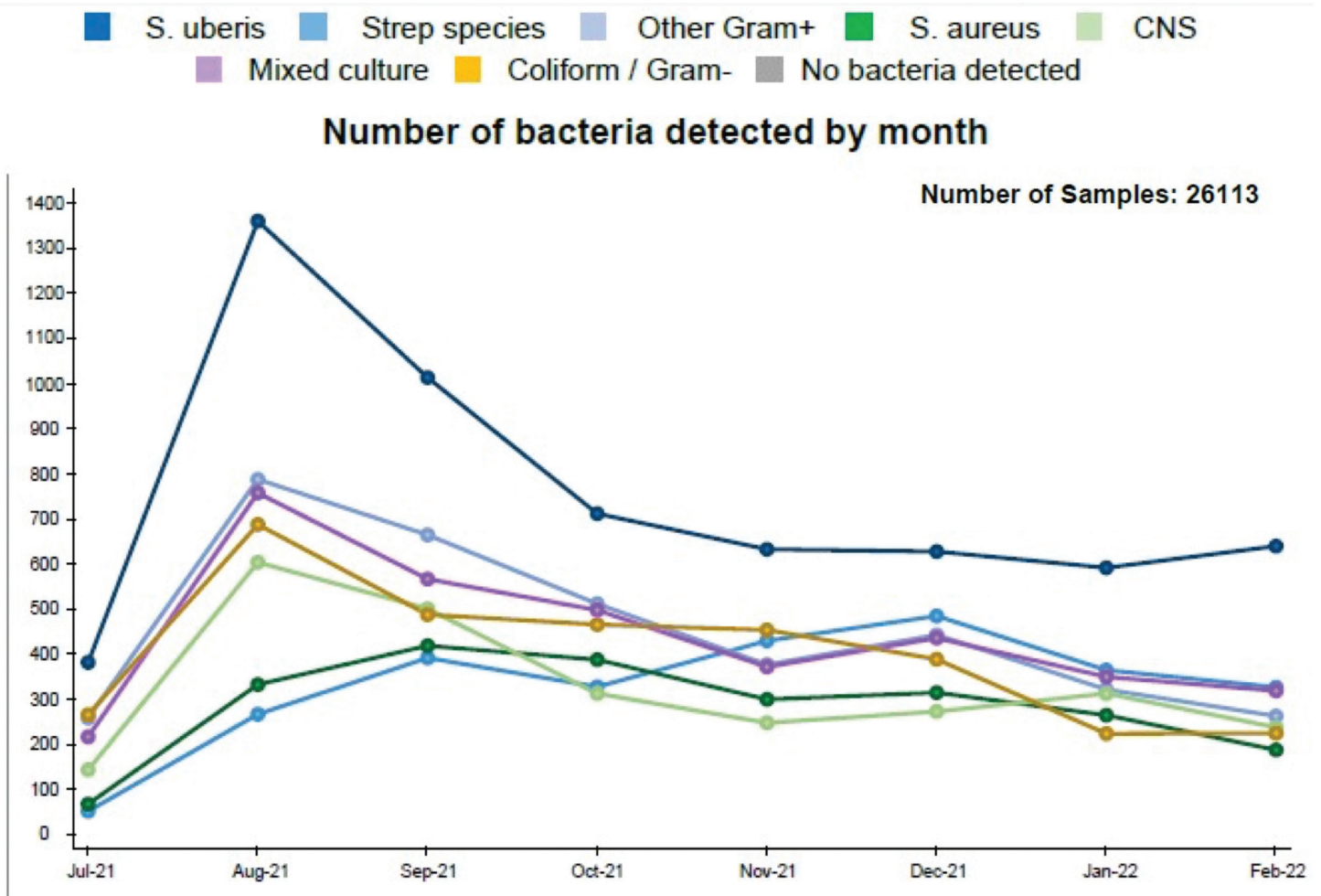
These changes aim to improve the welfare of our calves, and so enhance their growth rates/productivity. However, we do appreciate that there are some grey areas within these propositions. If you wish to discuss these proposed changes with our veterinary team then please feel free to give us a call at the clinic or chat with your vet at their next farm visit.

By John Spearpoint

Mastitis Roadshow

It has been a busy few weeks with several RVC client seminars. Dr Steve Cranfield, Agrihealth’s technical veterinarian presented at the Rangiora Town Hall on mastitis prevention and treatment.

This was a great interactive presentation covering practical ways to minimise mastitis to achieve milk premiums and reduce antibiotic usage. Steve provided some data on the seasonal variation in mastitis-causing bacteria in NZ dairy herds, dispelling the myth that mastitis bugs change throughout the season. As you can see from over 26,000 milk cultures run over last season, Strep uberis remains the most prevalent bug throughout the entire lactation season.



On-farm rapid mastitis test (Mastatest)

The Mastatest lapbox has been hugely popular with our clients. On-farm milk culturing allows you to “know the bug, know the drug”. And recent data has shown antibiotic usage can be reduced by up to 23% as well as improving mastitis cure rates.

Steve outlined how herd test data can also be used to identify high SCC cows. Using a Mastatest HiSCC cartridge can then determine what bacteria is present to help guide management/culling decisions.



Tips to prevent mastitis

Colostrum herd:

- If teats are dirty, wash them with a low-pressure hose
- Teat spray colostrum cows before and after milking to kill bugs and improve teat condition
- Strip quarters to check mastitis at every milking
- RMT before entering the milking herd



Milking herd:

- Teat score cows regularly for early warning of any problems
- Teat spray will promote healthy teat skin that will slow bacterial growth
- Overmilking can damage teats. Consider using the Dairy NZ MilkSmart APP to optimise milking efficiency and reduce damage to teat ends



How to manage clinical mastitis?

1. **Mastitis is painful** - treat with pain relief such as KetoMax to reduce pain and inflammation. Ketomax for 3 days (not just a single dose)
2. **Know the bug, know the drug** - take a milk sample and test on-farm with Mastatest
3. **Wait 24 hours** for the Mastatest result and treat based on the result to improve cure rate and reduce antibiotic use



(Note: 10% of samples have no bacterial growth and 12% of samples are coliform/Gram negative, both do not require antibiotics, saving money on unnecessary treatment costs. The most appropriate treatment is the use of 3 days KetoMax, but also call your vet if the cow is sick!)

If you would like to learn more about reducing mastitis, follow the link to a full recorded webinar:

<https://bit.ly/3ALSaTD>

or make a cuppa and head over to our website to check out the **News** in the **Dairy** section of our website to watch the full recording. You can also request this link via email: just ask one of our team and it can be sent to you.

**Prepare now for the new season by installing a Mastatest lapbox.
The RVC team can order, install and provide training.**

What is Precision Livestock Farming?

This is the management of our animals by automated real-time monitoring and controlling of production, reproduction, health and wellbeing. Digitalisation is giving us the ability to optimise animal wellbeing by providing detailed data to improve outcomes by early detection of disease (in our experience at least 1-2 days before even experienced members of the farm team can visually detect an issue). This is achieved by constant, real-time evaluation of our animals. An animal's vital signs (such as activity, rumination, temperature) are constantly collected, enabling pattern analysis that discovers new/early signs of changes in health or condition that put an animal at risk.

Who is Precision Livestock Farming for?

For the farmer who:

- Wants to maximise their time
- Is seeking to be resource efficient
- Is conscious of animal health and wellbeing

We estimate that 30% of all cows we look after at RVC will have some form of 'cow bling' on them this season!

Smart collars/tags have many applications including heat detection for mating, monitoring for early signs of disease and at a herd level, rumination for assessment of optimal feeding.

So how can the RVC team help our Precision Livestock Farmers?

Individual animal level:

- Assist with diagnosis and treatment decision making for a cow with a health alert
- The development of a health alert protocol for 'what to do' when a new health alert comes up

Herd level:

- Regular analysis of rumination by management group (via the MSD Allflex Animal Intelligence Elite Portal) during the season to optimise animal performance
- Collaborate with your extended rural professional team (such as nutritionist) to improve performance

Our team is busy upskilling with software to help turn data into practical action! If you are a Precision Livestock Farmer and would like us to work with you and your wider support team to improve on farm performance, get in touch with us today!



Hygiene is key

When it comes to the health of our calves, people often underestimate the importance of hygiene. It is so important to keep your calf rearing gear clean, including the trailer, calf pens, feeding equipment, staff gear and milk. The majority of diseases that affect calves are transmitted via faeces (either calf to calf or cow to calf).

Key areas we recommend you focus on:

CLEAN TRAILER

This is incredibly important, and often overlooked.

- Spray calves' navels in the paddock before putting them onto the trailer. Spray them again when unloading from the trailer, and then daily for 2-3days afterwards. A spirit-based iodine should be used, as this dries and disinfects the navel. A navel = a highway into the calf for bugs from the environment.
- Clean the trailer daily and disinfect it weekly. Rubber matting is a great base option, that is easy to clean. Straw is warm, but can't be cleaned, so should be replaced at least daily.
- Drive carefully & slowly, do not overcrowd, and prevent the amount of time spent in the trailer. Stress has a large impact on the immune system; stressed calves are more likely to pick up an infection.

CLEAN MILK

- Milk colostrum from clean teats
- Clean feeding equipment regularly
- Store colostrum correctly; refrigerated is ideal, otherwise in a clean, cool, covered container with potassium sorbate.

STAFF EQUIPMENT & PPE

- Disinfect boots and wet weathers when moving between calf pens, this is particularly important when entering/leaving the sick calf pen. Ideally have a specific set of boots/wet weathers for use in the sick pen only.
- Always wear gloves when handling calves (a lot of the diseases are zoonoses/can be passed onto humans... and they are not pretty!)

CALF PENS

- Follow the all-in and all-out rule so that calves are staying in the same pen for the entire time
- Disinfect pens twice weekly and give them a thorough clean in between mobs. The sick pen should be disinfected daily. Don't forget to disinfect the outside of calf feeders and feeding equipment!
- Now is the time to get your calf pens ready! Plan which pens will be for sick animals, bobby calves etc.



We have Virkon, Vetsan and Sterigene disinfectants available for purchase from the clinic.

NZ RESEARCH: USING MULTIMIN® PRE-CALVING¹



COWS 2- 4 WEEKS PRE-CALVING

The research



**1,700 COWS
4 HERDS**



**5 ml DOSE
MULTIMIN®**



**14-28 DAYS
PRE-CALVING**

All herds were fully supplemented with oral trace element mixes, with blood tests confirming copper and selenium levels were well within normal ranges on the day of treatment. Treatment was administered at the same time as an anti-scours vaccine.

The results

- Halving of clinical mastitis in the first month after calving.
- 25% reduction in subclinical mastitis.
- Reinforces the importance of trace elements in supporting the immune system when stressful events such as calving increase demand, even where disease is well controlled and no deficiencies are apparent.

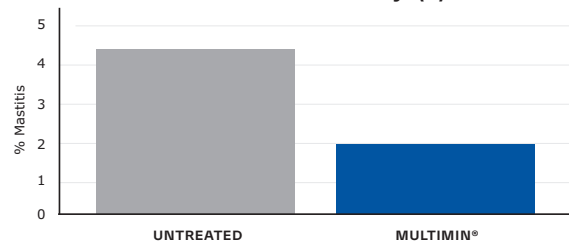
↓ 52%

**REDUCTION IN
CLINICAL MASTITIS**

↓ 25%

**REDUCTION IN
SUBCLINICAL MASTITIS**

Mastitis in first 30 days (%)



NZ RESEARCH: USING MULTIMIN® IN CALVES AT BIRTH AND PRE-WEANING^{2,3}



CALVES AT BIRTH

The research



**971 CALVES
4 HERDS**



**1 ml / 50 kg
DOSE MULTIMIN®**



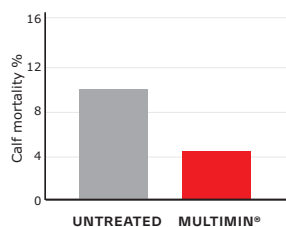
**DAY 1 AND 70
OF ARRIVING IN SHED**

No adverse events reported from injections. Calves were born from fully supplemented herds.

The results

- In MULTIMIN® treated calves, sickness and death rates due to scours, navel infections or other diseases were halved within 3 days of injection.

Mortality rates day 3-35 with and without MULTIMIN® treatment in first 24 hours



↓ 58%

REDUCTION IN DEATHS

↓ 52%

REDUCTION IN DISEASE

Reduction in disease from 3-35 days of age after MULTIMIN® treatment in first 24 hours

