



# Dairy News

By Tristan Kamps

We would again like to acknowledge and appreciate the following farm teams for their exceptional performance.

**Congratulations to all our winners:**

**Fertility award:**  
Carleton Dairies

**Best Heifer Rearing:**  
Eyrewell Dairy Ltd

**Milk quality award:**  
Brenthworth Dairy Farms

**Honourable mentions** go to Bayshear Ltd and Parish Dairies Two Ltd for most improved Milk quality and Fertility respectively.

## Dairy Awards 2023

With the eyes firmly focussed on the season ahead it is definitely important to take time to reflect on the season that has been and have a moment to share the highs and lows with fellow dairy farmers. To realise that you are all part of a community and that there is support out there, that is the main goal of the annual RVC Dairy Awards that we had the privilege to host at the Rangiora RSA in the beginning of June.

This was a great opportunity for everyone to catch up over a beer and some food and celebrate the successes of the season just been.

We had Kirsten Baxter from Zoetis give us a talk about Sustainable Farming and about how farming is going to look in the future. But more importantly the reasons why. Andrew Weir, our “new” Large animal Vet presented RVC goals in integrating and optimising data into consulting and planning on dairy farms.

And of course, there was ample time to be able to celebrate the impact Colin has had for many of us in the last 10 years of his time with RVC. And to wish him all the best with retirement.



Best Fertility



Best Heifer Rearing



Milk Quality

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Co-op Difference	<b>Page 2</b>
Enhancing calves immunity	<b>Page 3</b>
Calf Scours	<b>Page 4</b>
Colostrum Management	<b>Page 6</b>
Cow Care Pack	<b>Page 8</b>
Meet Matt Lawrey	
Diary Awards pictures	<b>Page 9</b>
Buy Selekt & get a free Swandri vest	<b>Page 10</b>

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!

# Fonterra Cooperative Difference 2023-24

## Non-replacement calf policy update



The  
**Co-operative  
Difference**

From 1st June 2023, Fonterra has included a new clause in their Terms of Supply.

- Farmers must ensure all non-replacement calves enter a value stream.
- Calves can only be euthanised on-farm where there are humane reasons for doing so.

These changes were signalled in early 2022 to respond to growing consumer awareness in how their food is produced, including the quality of life experienced by the animals who produce it. Fonterra places strong emphasis on calf wellbeing and a big part of this is ensuring all calves have a useful life.

### What are some possible value streams for non-replacement calves?

- Beef
- Calf – veal (bobby calves). Bobbies are still considered a viable value stream. They contribute to a huge number of valuable products including meat, leather, adhesives, and pharmaceutical products.
- Petfood

### What can I do if I think a calf is suffering?

The Terms of Supply still allow on-farm euthanasia to protect calf wellbeing. These situations include;

- Following vet advice
- To relieve suffering in an emergency situation
- To relieve suffering from a significant congenital abnormality (birth defect)
- To protect the wellbeing of an animal that is unfit for transport (see below)

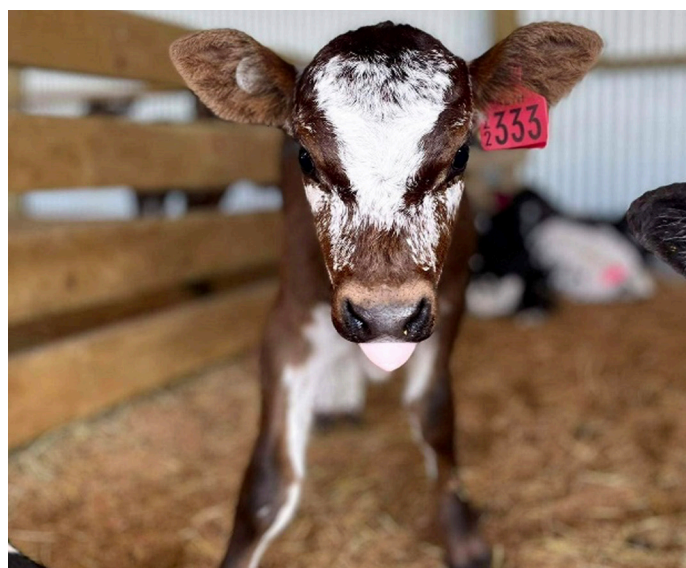
### If I do need to put an animal down, what is acceptable?

You have a legal responsibility to comply with the relevant Codes of Welfare to ensure the procedure causes minimal stress to the animal. Animals should be put down humanely and with respect.

Approved euthanasia methods include;

- Captive bolt
- Firearm. A .22 rifle is sufficient for calves less than 1 year old. If using a .22 firearm, a second shot or bleeding out is advised to ensure death has occurred.

Regardless of the method chosen, it should cause immediate death or render the animal unconscious followed by pithing (inserting a rod through the hole in the skull to damage the brainstem) or bleeding out. Dairy NZ has some useful information on humane slaughter <https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/welfare/humane-slaughter/>



### If a calf is unfit for transport, consider;

- Holding it until it is older and more suited for transport
- Sell it for calf rearing elsewhere when it's fit for transport
- If these options are not suitable, humane euthanasia may be appropriate. If euthanasing on-farm, document the animal ID and reason for euthanasia in your records.

### What records do I need to maintain?

It is important to maintain accurate farm animal records to show the destination of all calves born on farm. Fonterra will verify calf records during the 2024/2025 farm dairy assessment.

Recording options include;

- MINDA records
- NAIT tracking
- Processing dockets or sale receipts
- On-farm mortality records
- Vet reports

**These changes provide an opportunity for you to review your current calf rearing facilities and protocols so all staff involved in calf rearing are up to speed with the new changes.**



# Enhancing your calves' immunity with MULTIMIN®

The pioneer multiple trace element injection in New Zealand, MULTIMIN® is a unique concept of supplementation for cattle, used by farmers throughout the country. The most noteworthy benefits of this product are:

- Contains the essential trace elements copper, selenium, zinc and manganese
- A chelated formulation that is safe and tissue friendly
- Absorbed into the blood within 8 hours, and transferred to the liver within 24 hours
- Scientifically proven in New Zealand conditions to improve calf health and survival

## Get 'em off to a great start

It is well known that a newborn calf is the most susceptible animal on farm to developing disease. It is also well known that trace elements are necessary for cattle production and immunity. So, it makes sense to ensure that each calf is given the best chance to fight off any challenges faced in the first few weeks of life, by ensuring they have a sufficient level of trace elements in their body.

Most farmers do their best to ensure the herd has been supplemented before calving, and so often assume this will be passed onto the calves. However, the cow's own high requirements at calving and the variable intake of colostrum, can mean that calves are entering the calf shed with fewer trace elements than expected (at exactly the time they need them most for immunity and growth!) A severe deficiency will reduce weight gains, but even a minor shortfall will result in reduced immunity.

## Why an injection?

A high proportion of disease, and resulting death, occurs within the first few weeks of life, so supplementation to prevent this needs to be absorbed rapidly and given as early as possible. This is best achieved through injection, as oral supplementation may be poorly absorbed, absorbed more slowly, and have interference within the gut.

## Supported by science

A New Zealand study conducted in 2018 demonstrated the benefits of injecting calves with MULTIMIN® early in life. The effect was rapid (within three days of injection) and showed that death and disease were both consistently halved (58% and 52% respectively) in all ages of calves that were injected.

## When and how to use MULTIMIN®

MULTIMIN® should be administered to calves (up to 12 months old) at birth and at weaning. In the 2018 trial farmers injected calves on the first day they arrived at the shed, which fit in easily with their daily calf pick-up routine. MULTIMIN® is administered as a subcutaneous injection at 1ml/50kg in calves and has a NIL meat and milk withholding period.

To learn more, including further benefits of using MULTIMIN® in cows, beef cattle, and deer, visit [performanceready.co.nz](http://performanceready.co.nz) and speak to your large animal veterinarian.



**Win 1 of 2 prize packs in the nationwide draw which include:**

- 75 inch TV
- Soundbar & Wireless Subwoofer
- Multimin Retro Bar Fridge
- Roomba Vacuum

To qualify purchase 2 x 500ml / 4 x 200ml Multimin packs, enter in the draw via the QR code located on the Crunchie, promo flyer or via the Multimin website. **PLUS** submit a photo or video of Multimin being used on your farm and you'll receive **5 bonus entries** into the draw.

**PLUS** because you purchase from **RVC** you will automatically be entered in the draw for your chance to win an additional prize pack - just for **RVC CUSTOMERS** which includes:

- Multimin branded chilly bin
- UE Boom
- All Blacks rugby jersey
- Rugby ball.



# Calf Scours: fail to plan, plan to fail

Anyone who has been through a scours outbreak can tell you, it is one of the worst experiences in farming. If you prepare now, you can greatly reduce your chances of having a scours outbreak this coming season!

## Our top recommendations are:

### Keeping calves healthy

- Every calf to receive 4-6L of clean, good quality, first milking colostrum within 12 hours of birth
- Hygiene, hygiene, hygiene!
- Feed at least 4L of colostrum per day for the first two weeks of life
- Good protocols for sick calves:
  - o Isolated sick calf pen
  - o Separate feeders
  - o Boot wash station at all pens
  - o Clear protocols that all staff can understand and follow

### Vaccinating heifers and cows

Vaccinating your heifers and cows with **Rotavec@ 3-12 weeks pre-calving/Kolibin 2-12 weeks**, boosts the antibodies in their colostrum and transition milk against three of the most common scour-causing pathogens:

- Rotavirus
- Coronavirus (not the Covid-19 kind!)
- E. coli

These antibodies can be released into the milk for 28-days post-calving. The pathogens mentioned above are present on most farms in NZ, so calves need all the protection and help they can get to prevent them from getting sick if they do encounter one of these. Vaccinating cows, and the transfer of this protection to calves via colostrum/milk, will reduce the risk of your calves getting scours & reduce the severity of any cases that do arise.

### Colostrum & calf shed management

Now is also the time to start planning how your team will manage colostrum and the calf shed hygiene this season, as well as have protocols ready to easily kick into gear at the first sign of an infection outbreak.

- Ensure all colostrum storage containers have lids, so dirt and flies can't contaminate the colostrum between collection and feeding.
- You could also fit-out your calf sheds with solid partitions between pens to help contain any infection/ outbreaks by limiting the number of calves that have direct (nose-to-nose) contact with each other.

Calving will be here before we know it, so get prepared now, before the busy period arrives. If you have any questions, would like some support with staff training, or a review of your farm's calf management protocols, then give our large animal team a call - We are here to help!

Or come to our **CALF REARING SEMINAR ON THURSDAY 13th JULY**  
PLEASE RSVP to Matt 027 333 8989 or email the large animal team: [largea@rangvet.co.nz](mailto:largea@rangvet.co.nz)



# Is ketosis robbing your herd?

## The silent impact on in-calf rates

One of the most widespread diseases preventing cows getting in calf in New Zealand is subclinical ketosis. There is no doubt it is impacting farms across our region, with 75% of cows within our herds falling victim in spring\*.

Subclinical ketosis is a 'silent disease' that cannot be seen visually but quietly exists, robbing cows of energy and compromising their performance and health.

Recent NZ studies of subclinical ketosis revealed a staggering 7% reduction in 6-week in-calf rates\*\*.

Through working with our clients, we are aware, first-hand, of the effects of subclinical ketosis.

Although good feed management and achieving optimum body condition scores can help, more farmers are turning to Rumenox® to avoid ketosis so cows are better able to get in calf.

Administering through water or feed at calving to the end of mating is recommended. Rumenox® is, however, also widely used throughout full lactation for controlling pasture bloat and increasing milk protein production.

\*Data from 2016 DairyNZ and Lincoln University Dairy Farm study \*\*Study by Compton et al. Rumenox is a registered trademark of Glenmark Veterinary Limited. Registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997, A011276, A010896. See [foodsafety.govt.nz](http://foodsafety.govt.nz) for registration conditions. Phone 0800 485 123 (0800 GVL 123) [rumenox.co.nz](http://rumenox.co.nz)



**WIN with rumenox®**  
A healthy herd starts inside

Buy Rumenox® and go into the draw to win one of two **GIANT** e-bikes worth over \$4k each!  
Enter at [rumenox.co.nz/win-an-ebike](http://rumenox.co.nz/win-an-ebike)

Terms & Conditions apply.  
See [rumenox.co.nz/win-an-ebike](http://rumenox.co.nz/win-an-ebike) for details.

**Are you rumenox ready?**

### Why Rumenox®



Helps the rumen function better



Protects against ketosis, helping cows get in calf



Increases milk protein production



Helps prevent bloat



Registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997, No. A010896, No. A011276.  
See [www.foodsafety.govt.nz](http://www.foodsafety.govt.nz) for registration conditions.

# VIP Invite **Calf Rearers** Morning Tea



Join us for this popular annual educational event

Learn the best practice methods for rearing calves and how to minimise risk

- Colostrum
- Transport
- Housing
- Hygiene
- Feeding

**13th July**

10am-12noon  
181 Lehmans Road  
RANGIORA



PLEASE RSVP for catering to the large animal team 03 313 7438 xtn 2 or email: [largea@rangvet.co.nz](mailto:largea@rangvet.co.nz)

# COLOSTRUM MANAGEMENT

## The 3 Q's

### Quality



Not all colostrum is made equal. Age, breed, dry cow nutrition and dry period length, first milking volume, and immune status of the cow can all affect colostrum quality. With so many variables to consider, the only real way of knowing if colostrum is any good is by testing it, and the easiest most effective way to do this is with a Brix refractometer. A Brix refractometer essentially measures how much protein (Immunoglobulin) is in a sample of fluid by how much it bends or distorts light. Sounds intimidating but in reality, it's dead easy, takes under a minute, and has no ongoing costs or delicate parts. A reading of >22% is good quality and can be considered "Gold colostrum", while <22% should be considered second tier.

The amount of immunoglobulins or "antibodies" in a cow's colostrum reduces significantly after calving. About 3.5% per hour! So getting that first milking from freshly calved cows ASAP will help to ensure more of your colostrum is hitting the 22% mark on the Brix.

But getting it out of the cow is only half of the battle to win the war on scours you also need to get it into the calf while it's still good. Colostrum quality degrades quickly once removed from the udder.

**Rules for preserving colostrum:**

#### Cleanliness is above godliness - our frequent readers may have noticed this is one of our rules for calving cows but the same is true with colostrum.

Bacterial contamination significantly degrades colostrum quality. Contamination can come from dirty udders, non sterile cups/collection buckets, and of course dirty storage buckets.

Make sure all pieces of the system are clean when collecting colostrum and ensure storage buckets have lids. At room temperature bacterial populations can double every 20-30 minutes so even small amounts of contamination invisible to the naked eye can turn gold colostrum into less than adequate transition milk within a few hours.

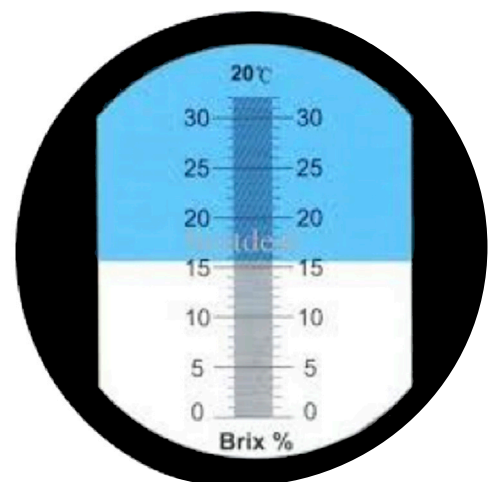
• Only mix like with like Gold colostrum should only be mixed with other gold colostrum collected on the same day. Tier two colostrum can be mixed with tier 2 colostrum.

• Refridgerating colostrum will extend the shelf life of your colostrum to 48 hours

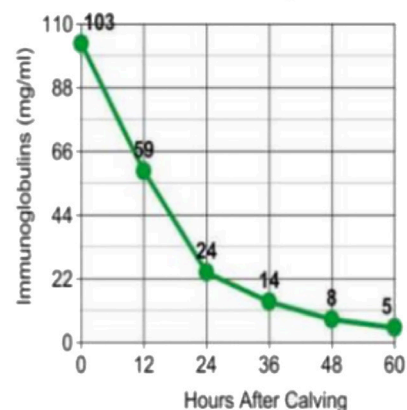
• Adding potassium sorbate alone will increase it to about 3-7 days, while potassium sorbate + re Fridgeration will ensure colostrum lasts for a full 7 days

- Frozen colostrum will store almost indefinitely but needs to be thawed gently with water <49 degrees.
- All colostrum should be warmed to body temperature (38degrees) prior to feeding.

All milkings after the first should be considered transition milk and are not suitable for feeding calves on day 1



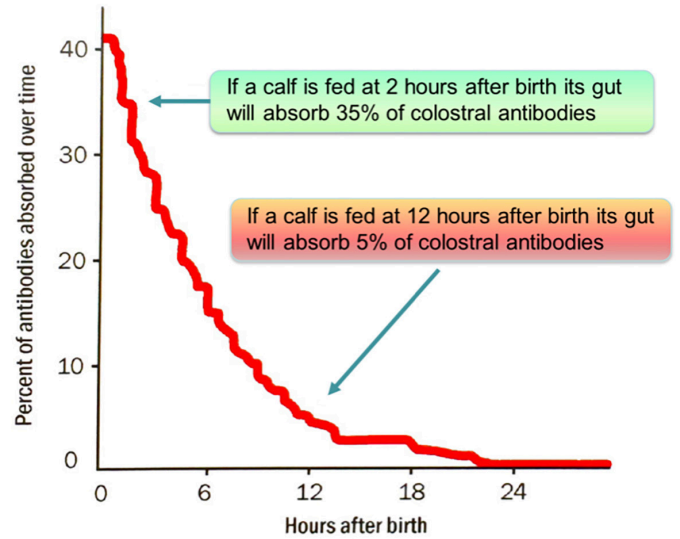
Decline in Colostrum Antibodies After Calving





# Quickly.

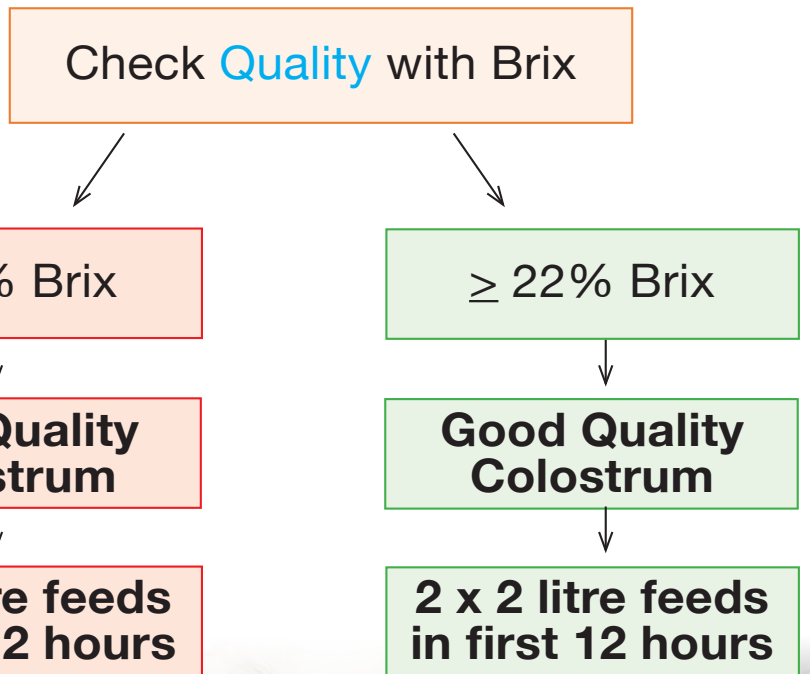
Calves are born with no antibodies. They rely entirely on colostrum for their immunity in the first few weeks of life. To make things tricky their ability to absorb the antibodies from colostrum decreases dramatically over the first 24 hours of life. By 6 hours old the absorption rate is halved! And by 24 hours old it's all but gone.



# Quantity.

Depends on the quality and the quickly...  
as a rule of thumb =

**10-15% of bodyweight in the first 12 hours**





**NEW**

**2023 PROMOTIONAL OFFER**

# KetoMax 15% Cow Care Pack

Use 3 days of KetoMax to reduce pain, fever and inflammation



**TREATS 33 COWS  
FOR 3 DAYS\***

**Contents:**

- 4x KetoMax 15% Inj. 250mL
- 1x Bottle Protector
- 1x KetoMax Injector Gun
- Shed apron
- Milk Sample Pottles
- Reducing Lameness on-farm poster
- Managing Mastitis on-farm poster



**NZ's No.1**  
Cattle Pain Relief\*

\*Assuming 500kg cow  
NZ Restricted Veterinary Medicine, ACVM No. A11031



Evidence based vet medicines

0800 821 421

www.agrihealth.co.nz

**AgriHealth**



# Meet Matt Lawrey

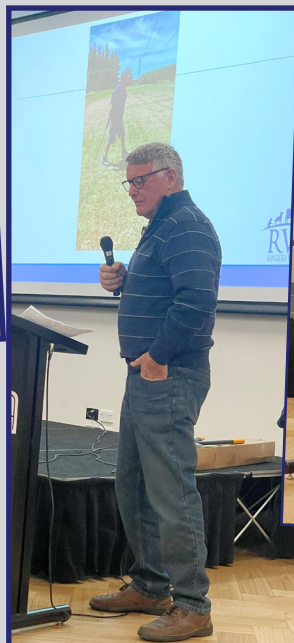
Matt joined the RVC staff in mid May to take over from Colin who is now enjoying his retirement. Having worked alongside Colin and RVC in his previous position, Matt already has a clear understanding of the role and appreciation of our RVC client base.

Matt has worked his entire career in the local rural sector. His agricultural degree and first-hand experience working on a variety of stock and cropping farms, (including managing a 500ha sheep and beef property) means he is aware of the challenges many farmers are facing. Couple this with spending the last 15 years in the Animal Health Industry, Matt is keen to draw on his knowledge and experience to help find clients solutions that align with their animal health goals and their business needs.

Outside of work, Matt enjoys a number of different activities; vintage cars, jet boating, clay bird shooting, and enjoying an ale or two with friends to name a few. Together with his fiancée Sophie (a small animal vet and long-term RVC staff member), they live on a lifestyle block in Loburn, just up the road from where he grew up. Matt is looking forward to getting to know all the RVC farm clients over the coming months.



## Dairy Awards 2023





agilis

Buy SELEKT™  
and get a free  
Swannndri vest\*

Receive a complimentary Swannndri vest when you purchase a SELEKT™ starter kit or any combination of SELEKT™ product to the value of \$1000.

SELEKT™  
Cattle Hydration System

