

NEWSLETTER

In this issue:

- ◆ Seasonal reminders
- ◆ Alistair’s Milestone Birthday
- ◆ Research Project Results – Salmonella
- ◆ High Cell Count Cows (Subclinical Mastitis):
- ◆ BVDV- What’s Your Herds Status?
- ◆ BVDV Lab Samples
- ◆ Crush – Modifications For Lambe Cows

Seasonal reminders:

- Early removal of eye cancers is much easier and more likely to be successful. If you are not sure if an eye problem is cancer or not get the eye checked promptly.
- Check “at risk” autumn calving cows for uterine infections 2 to 4 weeks after calving. These include assisted calvings, twins and cows with retained afterbirth.
- One important cause of us running late is “while you’re



here” as in “while you’re here could you have a look at this lame cow or sick calf”, If you know that you might have extra animals, please ring the office to let us know so that we can adjust our plan of attack.

Alistair’s Milestone Birthday

Alistair has reached the milestone birthday of 60! We would like to wish Alistair a happy birthday!



Research Project Results – Salmonella

In 2022, our practice participated in a research project being carried out by Dr Jane Woollacote from the University of Melbourne. The project investigated whether manure scraped off the dairy yard after milking can be used to successfully grow *Salmonella* and determine if the bacteria is carrying antibiotic resistance genes.

Twenty-three farms were sampled, with 9 farms having *Salmonella* cultured from the cow manure.

The *Salmonella* that was cultured from the cow manure was then assessed to see if there was any resistance to a range of antibiotics. On one farm, there was intermediate resistance to Chloramphenicol, and another was resistant to Streptomycin. Chloramphenicol is an antibiotic that is not allowed to be used in food producing animals and Streptomycin is an antibiotic that is used in some oral calf medications to treat calf scours.

<i>Salmonella</i> species cultured	No. of farms	Resistance
<i>Salmonella Hessarek</i>	1	None
<i>Salmonella Orion</i>	2	None
<i>Salmonella Zanzibar</i>	2	None
<i>Salmonella Kiambu</i>	1	Intermediate Chloramphenicol
<i>Salmonella Agona</i>	1	None
<i>Salmonella Anatum</i>	1	Yes Streptomycin
<i>Salmonella Infantis</i>	1	None

It is interesting to note that on three of the farms that grew *Salmonella* in the project, they have previously had the same *Salmonella* species cultured from sick cows or calves on those farms.

Further research is required to validate this project, but the method of scraping manure from the milking yard is a useful method detecting *Salmonella* on dairy farms.

High Cell Count Cows (Subclinical Mastitis)

A cow with subclinical mastitis is a cow that appears to have normal looking milk but has a persistently high somatic cell count (> 250,000 cells/ml → often > 400,000 cells/ml)

Subclinical mastitis occurs when an infection of the udder has not been cleared, and the bacteria reside in the udder stimulating an immune response by the cow.

Common mastitis bugs include:

- *Staphylococcus aureus*
- *Streptococcus uberis*
- Coagulase negative *Staphylococci* (CNS)
- *Mycoplasma bovis*
- *Trueperella pyogenes*
- *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
- *Norocardia* spp

Some of the mastitis bugs are incurable and the cow should be culled.

For most cows, the best chance of curing subclinical mastitis is over the dry period with the use of antibiotic dry cow therapy and a teat sealant.

Treatment of subclinical mastitis during lactation is often unrewarding. Eight to 10 subclinical mastitis cows would need to be treated to achieve one additional cure.

If treatment during lactation is considered, the aim is to improve milk quality and production. However, candidate selection is important. Good candidates: Younger cows in early lactation (<100 DIM) with a

recent infection (no history of chronic ICC) by a non-invasive pathogen. Poor candidates: chronic cases (palpable changes in the quarter), repeat clinical cases, late lactation cows (>100 DIM) and cases that yield no growth on culture.

A targeted approach would include determining which quarter(s) are affected. This can be done by using the California Rapid Mastitis Test (a cow-side test).



Treatment of subclinical mastitis usually involves an injectable antibiotic course (such as Penethaject or Tylan) with intramammary antibiotics (if affected quarters are known).

The treated cows should have their somatic cell count checked approximately 14 days post treatment/post calving (if the cow was dried-off) to see if they have responded to treatment. If they fail to respond, they most likely will need to be dried off (if not done previously to manage the subclinical mastitis) or culled.

BVDV- What's Your Herds Status?

Already this season we have had several BVDV outbreaks in dairy herds leading to PI calves being born.

A simple test to assess your milking herds status is a bulk milk antibody test. Depending on the results, further testing of other herd animals (newborn calves, yearling and heifers) may be required.

If the results show little or no exposure to the virus you need to consider how you will protect your herd from the virus.

BVDV Lab Samples

We normally send our BVDV ear notch and bulk milk samples to Swans in Esperance, WA on Tuesday

afternoons. Due to experiencing delays with Australia Post, we are now going to send them on Monday afternoons to ensure the samples arrive by the end of the week and get processed in a timely manner.

Crushes – Modifications For Lame Cows

As it is not wet this time of year, we have not been doing too many lame cows. But in preparation for doing lame cows, there are a couple simple modifications that can be made to make it a safe experience for the operator and the cow.

Firstly, when we lift cow's legs to look at their feet, we often tie them off to the bottom rail of the top vet gate. When cows kick, they often take the skin off at the back of the heel. An easy modification to prevent this is to put a pool noodle or poly pipe over the rail and tape it to the bar (photo below).



Secondly, when we tie the leg to the bottom rail of the top vet gate, the cow will often kick and cause the latch to come undone and the gate to swing open and hit us in the head with considerable force.

Having a chain available (does not have to be welded like the photo below) to chain the latched gate would be greatly appreciated.

