



NEWSLETTER

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Seasonal reminders:

- Carefully record dry cow identification, date of administration and the treatment used. This will help avoid residue problems at calving if cows calve before their due date.



- Warm dry cow tubes the night before by leaving them in the house near the heater or fire. **DO NOT** put them directly in warm water as this increases the chance of contamination with bacteria.
- Remember to vaccinate cows with 7-in-1 vaccine at dry off – this includes protection against Lepto, a serious human disease. Lepto causes a wide range of symptoms in people from mild aches and pains through to severe recurring flu-like symptoms.

Rotavec corona/Scourshield

The Rotavec Corona and Scourshield vaccines cover 5 different bugs that are associated with calf scours. Rotavirus and E coli are two bugs that we commonly see in our scouring calves.

The corona virus that causes calf scours is part of the panel of tests we use when we routinely diagnose calf scours. We have never diagnosed corona virus scours in calves. It is heartening to know that corona virus vaccines do exist – even if, as in this case, we don't need it.

E coli scours usually occurs in the first 4 days of life and often in the first 24 hours. Calves have a watery scour and dehydrate and die very quickly.

Rotavirus usually occurs between day 4 and 14 of a calf's life. Calves with rotavirus also get dehydrated but usually survive unless they contract another infection, such as crypto or bacteria, at the same time.

We have identified that rotavirus and crypto are the most common causes of calf scours that we see.

The Rotavec Corona and Scourshield vaccines are given to cows before they calve so that their colostrum contains antibodies to protect against rotavirus and E coli. If cows have not been vaccinated before, they should be given two doses – one at drying off and the other 2 to 3 weeks before calving.

Cows that have been vaccinated previously require only one dose. This can be given either at drying off or when cows start lead feeding 2 to 3 weeks before calving.

The price of Rotavec- Corona is **\$423.45 (inc GST)** per 100ml bottle. The price of Scourshield is **\$424.69 (inc GST)** per 100ml bottle.



Salmonella Vaccine

Bovilis S vaccine covers the two most common strains of Salmonella in cattle (S. dublin & S. typhimurium).

The disease usually presents as a foul-smelling diarrhoea with or without blood and gut lining in the faeces. Cattle usually have a high temperature and dehydration.

Sick cows are usually treated with antibiotics with reasonable success if the symptoms are recognised early. Delaying treatment reduces the chances of recovery.

In the past couple years we have identified a several strains that have shown resistance to the common antibiotics we use. This is a big concern for us.

If we can prevent the use of these antibiotics by vaccinating herds, it is likely to reduce the chance of resistance developing in your herd.

Vaccinating towards the end of a cow's pregnancy will protect the calf for the first 2-3 months of life through the cow's colostrum. This is a much better way of protecting calves than trying to vaccinate them directly.

The price of Bovilis S 100ml (50 doses) is **\$384.01 (inc GST)** and 250ml (125 doses) is **\$867.14 (inc GST)**.

Cows that have not been vaccinated previously require two doses of vaccine approximately a month apart. Cows that have been vaccinated before need only one dose that can be given at drying off or as they enter the lead feed paddock.

Drying Off Cows: Refresher - Best Practice for Udder Health

As we approach drying-off time, it's important to follow best-practice protocols to protect udder health and set cows up for a productive lactation next season. Here's a quick guide to ensure you're getting the most from

your dry cow therapy (DCT) and internal teat sealants (ITS).

Step-by-Step Guide to Drying Off

1. **Restrain the Cow** - Always ensure the cow is safely restrained in a clean, calm environment.

2. **Wear Clean Gloves** - Hygiene starts with you—gloves help prevent the transfer of bacteria.

3. **Disinfect the Teats** - Use cotton wool soaked in 70% alcohol or alcohol teat wipes to disinfect each teat thoroughly. Clean in this order: Front Left → Front Right → Back Right → Back Left.

4. **Keep Tubes Clean** - Only use intramammary tubes that are clean and dry. If a tube is dropped—throw it away. Wet or dirty tubes increase the risk of introducing environmental bacteria.

Important: Never submerge DCT or ITS tubes in water—this can introduce harmful bacteria such as *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, leading to hard-to-treat mastitis.

5. **Administer Dry Cow Treatment (ADCT)**

- Partially insert the ADCT tube into the teat canal (don't push it all the way in).

- Administer the full content, then gently massage the quarter to help distribute the product.

6. **Insert Internal Teat Sealant (ITS)**

- Pinch the base of the teat to close it off.

- Partially insert the ITS tube and administer the content.

- Do not massage after inserting a teat sealant—it needs to remain in the teat canal.

7. **Teat Dip or Spray** - After treatment, dip or spray each quarter with an effective teat disinfectant.

8. **Mark the Cow Use** - spray paint or another clear method to identify treated cows.

9. **Record Treatment Details** - Keep accurate records of which cows received which treatments and when.

10. **Move Cows to the Right Location**

- Treated cows should be moved to an appropriate dry-off paddock or area.

11. **Clean the Milking Shed Between Batches** - Thorough cleaning helps prevent cross-contamination between treated and untreated cows.

Following these steps reduces the risk of new infections during the dry

period and ensures teat sealants and dry cow treatments do their job effectively. With good hygiene and technique, you're investing in better udder health, fewer cases of mastitis, and stronger starts to the next lactation.

What If a Cow Gets Mastitis During the Dry Period?

While we aim to prevent mastitis during the dry period, infections can still occasionally occur. It's important to act quickly if you suspect a case. Steps to Take:

1. **Bring the Cow in for Examination** - Check the affected quarter for heat, pain, and swelling—compare it to the other quarters for signs of inflammation.

2. **Assess the Secretion** - If it looks suspicious, treat it as a clinical case. Examine both the secretion and the teat.

3. **Strip Out the Quarter Completely** - Removing the milk or secretion helps reduce bacterial load and pressure.

4. **Begin Treatment Immediately**

- Use a lactating cow intramammary treatment.

- Consider antibiotics, anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and fluids depending on the severity and cow condition (vet may be required to give IV and oral fluids).

5. **Ongoing Care** - Strip the affected quarter every 12 hours, continuing treatment until there is clear clinical improvement.

6. **After Recovery** - Once signs have resolved, the quarter can be dried off using appropriate ADCT and ITS.

7. **Keep Good Records** - Always update your treatment records and adjust dry-off records accordingly.

Special Consideration: Late in the Dry Period

- If a cow develops mastitis close to calving, avoid using ADCT due to milk withholding times. In such cases, consider using ITS alone if appropriate.

Early detection and treatment of dry period mastitis help protect the health of both the cow and the upcoming lactation.