



The Vet Centre

WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ

October/November
2025

Welcome to the October/November issue

Spring fever has the team kicking up a gear when it comes to on-farm jobs. There is still plenty of spring-born calf disbudding, spring herd mating, and reproduction planning underway, along with autumn pregnancy scanning and vaccinations being booked in. Cow herds are being tested for trace elements to keep the girls in tip-top shape for the next step in the season, and the delightful bull mobs are getting their check-up and BVD vaccine before their spring fun begins.



The techs are busy planning the annual farm dog vaccination runs. Keep an eye on your email inbox for your appointment. We have some great deals on dog flea and tick treatments for this time of year, when these parasites start to cause a stir in our hard-working furry friends. If you are not part of the farm dog vaccine program, please contact your local clinic to get signed up.

REMINDER

Drench your calves four weeks after being on pasture with an oral combination drench. *The Vet Centre* recommends Corporal combination, a levamisole and oxfendazole-based oral drench. Corporal oral should be given until your young stock reach 120kgs. After that, a triple oral drench, such as Turbo Triple, should be given to provide better treatment until they are fifteen months old, or until they can no longer be orally drenched. If oral is no longer an option, then a pour-on, such as Turbo Pour On, or an injectable, such as Eclipse E B12 + Se, should be given.



Cutest farm pet COMPETITION

Show us your cute farm pet. Prizes up for grabs. Send us a picture of your cute farm pets – email photos and a blurb if you wish to maungaturoto@thevetcentre.net.nz before 28th November 2025 to be in to win a prize. We will post these photos on our social media platforms.



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BY FARM VET SARAH BRIGGS

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BY VET TECH NICOLE HILL

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Transport Tips

Understanding the rules surrounding the transportation of cattle is vital to keep them safe and under a high level of welfare, and to avoid fines for yourself. If you are unsure about any animal, please call us, and a veterinarian will come out to certify whether it is fit to travel.

THE RULE IS:

'Livestock must be fit enough to withstand the entire journey without suffering unnecessary or unreasonable pain or distress.'

Commonly seen conditions:

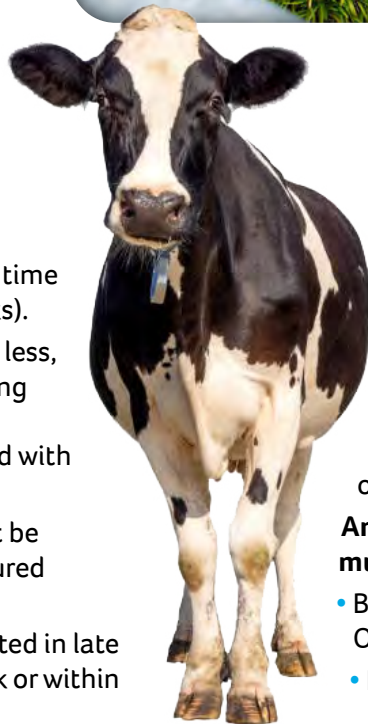
- **Eyes:** Any masses in the eyeball or eyelids must be under less than 2cm and not discharging blood or pus.
- **Horns:** They cannot be longer than the length of the ear. If you need animals dehorned, please contact us in plenty of time to allow the horn to heal (at least 2 weeks).
- **Lameness:** Must be a grade 2 out of 3 or less, so this means a subtle lameness, including the head carriage being held above the backline and having been initially treated with pain relief.
- **Mastitis:** Must be a healed udder, i.e. not be inflamed or discharging, not have an injured udder or any lesion on her udder.
- **Pregnancy:** Animals cannot be transported in late pregnancy (if she gives birth on the truck or within



Sarah Briggs
BVSc, Farm Vet

NOTE:

Animals that have any wounds/lesions anywhere that are discharging pus or blood will NOT be fit to travel.



24 hours after arrival, you could be fined), recently after giving birth or with retained foetal membranes or prolapses of the uterus, vagina or rectum.

- **Bobby calves:** Must be four full days (96 hours) old with dry, shrivelled navels and free from any sickness or disease.

They must also be able to fully weight bear on all 4 feet with firm, worn hooves.

Animals that cannot be transported must either:

- Be treated by farm staff and/or a veterinarian OR
- Euthanised humanely on farm.

LIVE WELL FARM WELL

ECLIPSE
Pour-On for Cattle

Boehringer Ingelheim



monitoring the cows that arrive at the milking shed first and exhibit signs of heat, while waiting for the rest of the herd.

There needs to be enough staff at the shed to detect cows that have rubbed tail paint and identify all cows that have been recorded throughout the last 24 hours so they can be drafted out.

Cows have an ideal time to be bred, and this is after they have been in standing heat for a few hours. Mating once a day is suitable if you put cows up when they have been on standing heat during the time from morning milking until before the next

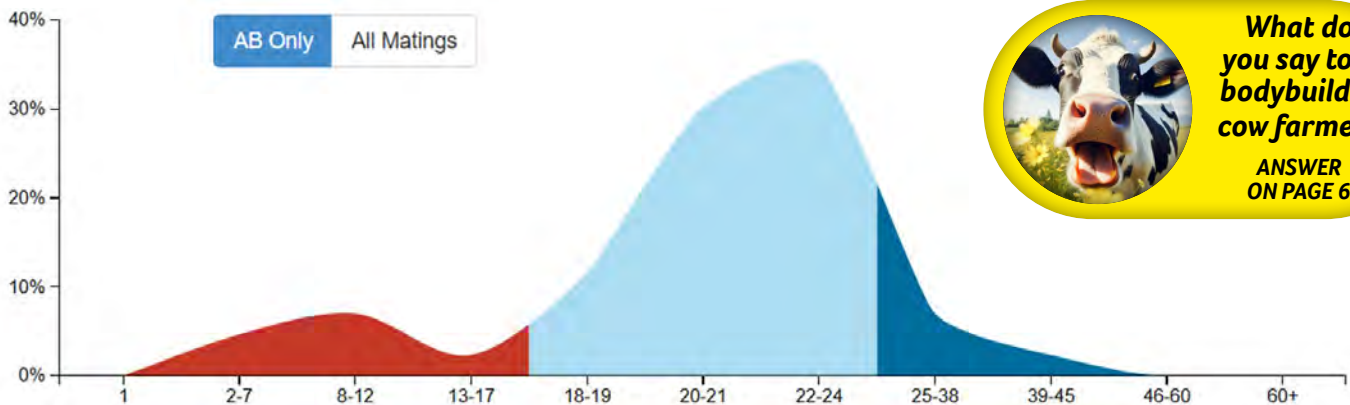
morning milking. Fresh semen lasts 52 hours, so if you mate early for some cows, they can ovulate the next day and still manage to conceive. Frozen semen only lasts 24 hours, so if mated one day and still standing for heat the next, you were too quick, and the cow needs to be remated. Most mistakes are mating too early. Helping to prevent this is identifying the dates of cows' cycles both during mating and before. Cows should cycle 18 – 24 days apart if your first detected cycle was correct.

Set yourself and your team up for a successful mating

One of the most important times of the year is in front of us. Detecting cows accurately on heat is critical to get a respectable conception rate. If you look at your last year's MINDA Return Interval Analysis, you can determine if improvements need to be made. (Below is a Return Interval Analysis, which is acceptable, but still shows more than ideal short returns.) If your actual percentages are not within the target percentages,

improvement could be made. Please talk to your vet for advice.

For a farm to have a successful mating, not only do cows need to be well-fed and in good condition, but the staff also need to be rested and focused. Ideally, staff get to the paddock to identify cows midday-ish and before the cows are let out onto the race to walk to the shed. An additional staff member should be at the yard,




What do you say to a bodybuilder cow farmer?
ANSWER ON PAGE 6

	Interval	Actual	Target
Short	1-17 days	14%	< 13%
Normal	18-24 days	77%	>= 69%
Long	25+ days	9%	< 18%





← Gold standard heat detection

Use 2 heat detection aids:

1. Tail Paint

Preparation - Remove any loose hair or dirt from the tail area and ensure the skin is clean and dry.

Application - Use a brush or applicator to apply a strip of tail paint no more than 20cm long and 5-6cm wide and thick enough to cover the skin (but still allowing hair fibres to be visible).

Placement - Apply the paint strip along the spine, starting at the tail head and moving towards the cow's front. i.e. strokes should be back to front. **If the hair fibres are not visible it is too thick!**

Repainting - Reapply tail paint to cows after they've been in heat to track their cycling and touch up weekly

2. Heat Mount detector

Preparation - Prepare the area two days prior to application. Remove loose hair and dirt (these disturb the oils in the coat and prevent glue from sticking).

Application - Use glue or self-adhesive as recommended by the manufacturer

Placement - Pressure-activated heat mount detectors - The patch is mounted on the backbone with the top of the patch between the hip bones. Adjust for the size of cow and aim for position that will receive maximum pressure from the brisket of the mounting animal

Placement - Scratch-off patch heat mount detectors - The patches are mounted across the backbone, at the highest point closer to the tail



Use the tail paint and heat mount detector information along with the previously recorded heat or mating date to make a decision on whether to submit for AI or not



Watch this video

<https://www.dairynz.co.nz/animal/reproduction-and-mating/using-heat-detection-aids/>



Evidence based vet medicines

0800 821 421

www.agrihealth.co.nz

AgriHealth

GS-HD-2025

Be on the lookout for lameness

No one likes seeing lame cows in their herd. It's a painful experience for the animal and comes at a significant financial cost. On top of immediate treatment costs and lost production, lame cows are at higher risk of poorer reproductive performance and culling. This makes the cost per lameness incident around \$500.

We are now bang in the middle of the greatest risk period for cows to develop lameness. Over calving, there are changes to the fat pad and ligaments within the hoof, making the corium (the part that grows new hoof) more vulnerable to damage and inflammation.

The best way to ensure prompt identification is to watch your cows as they walk away from the shed and give them an individual lameness score, ideally repeating this every couple of weeks. Anything that is identified as lame can then be drafted for treatment. Only around 20% of lameness is caused by primary bacterial infection, with the rest being due to inflammation. This means reaching for a rope to tie the leg up and have a look is a much better bet than a bottle of penicillin.

We now have great evidence supporting the use of anti-inflammatories (3 days of Ketomax or 1 dose of

Rheumocam/Metacam), which reduces the culling of these animals at the end of the season by 50%.

So, if getting someone out on farm to score your herd or help upskill the team in recognising lameness sounds useful, reach out to your local Vet Centre team. We can do hoof trimming, lame cow treatments, and our portable wrangler makes lame cows easy for any dairy shed!





Leptospirosis

Would you risk it?

Vaccinate your herd to protect your calves – as well as you!

Leptospirosis (Lepto) is a disease caused by bacteria shed in the urine of infected animals. Splashes of infected urine, water, or faeces can then enter other animals or humans through the nose, mouth, eyes, or cuts in the skin. Most mammals can be infected, including cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, dogs, horses, rats and, importantly, humans. Yes, that's you, your team, and your family.

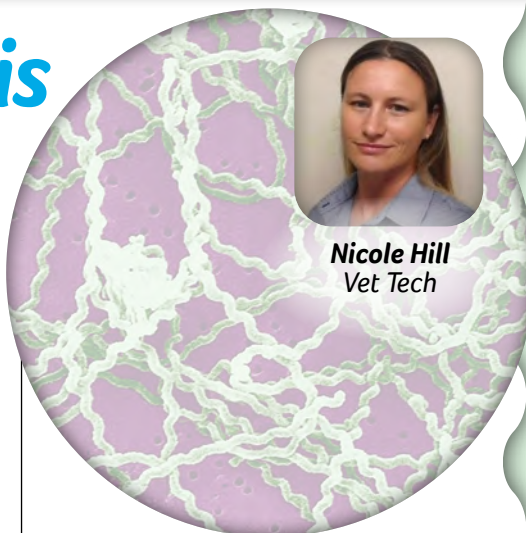
There are several types (strains) of lepto bacteria. Each type causes slightly different symptoms, which can range in severity in different animal species from no signs to severe illness.

Lepto vaccines have two functions:

1. Reducing urine shedding in animals to protect humans from infection.
2. Directly preventing serious disease in animals.

Lepto vaccination commonly used by The Vet Centre, contains protection against 4 different strains.

1. The Hardjo strain is primarily to protect you (human health).
2. The Pomona strain is present to protect both humans and animals.
3. Copenhageni is included in the lepto vaccines to protect animals, especially calves!
4. Pacifica is included in the Lepto 4-way vaccine and is there to protect humans.



Nicole Hill
Vet Tech

Recent research suggests that Pacifica could be present in three-quarters of dairy herds throughout New Zealand.

Lepto disease in calves commonly appears as a sudden and severe disease with high death rates between 3 and 4 weeks of age. Calves may have fevers, red urine, and swollen abdomens, but are often simply found dead. Occasionally, calves at 2 to 3 months of age show signs of photosensitisation and damage to the skin and liver. In adult cattle, Copenhageni can occasionally cause abortions. Copenhageni is the most common cause of lepto in New Zealand dogs and can also cause severe disease in humans.

The best way to prevent lepto being spread is via calf and herd vaccination.

Ensuring herds are fully vaccinated before calving will help protect calves early in their lives. For calves, if vaccination is initiated early enough (first shot at 3-6 months of age, with booster 4-6 weeks later), we can prevent the formation of lepto "shedder" calves coming through into your herd. It is crucial that we are vaccinating calves early. The risk of exposure is greater during wet conditions.

If you have any questions regarding the best plan to keep your calves, herd and staff protected from lepto, feel free to contact your local Vet Centre.

A Poem for Annual Farm Dog & Cat Vaccination Visits

*Farm Friends, Gather Near –
It's Vaccination Time Of Year!
Out on the farm where the grass
grows high,
Under the big blue country sky,
The cats and dogs both wag and purr,
But health check time has now occurred!*

*With boots on ground and cooler
in hand,
The vet rolls up across the land.
Needles ready, treats in tow,
It's time to help our farm friends grow.*

*For mates who guard and chase
the flock,
And barn cats curled in hay-filled box,
A little poke, a quick ol' check,
Will keep them well from tail to neck.*

*No sniffles, sneezes, worms, or woes –
Protection from their heads to toes!
A shot today means peace tomorrow,
Less worry, cost, and future sorrow.*

*So gather your critters, big and small,
We'll treat them kindly, one and all.
A pat, a treat, a job well done –
Then back to fields to leap and run!*

*Let's keep them safe, year after year –
Your loyal friends who live so near.
It's just one visit, short and sweet –
To keep farm paws and claws upbeat!*





Rural Events in the region

Dairy NZ

Discussion groups.

7th Oct 2025 - 11am - 1pm.
Te Kopuru, The Taylor Family,
Cole Road. SN18024.

15th Oct 2025 - 11am - 1pm.
Mid-Western, Emma Roche, Bint
Road, Maungakaramea. SN13715.

SMASH – Smaller milk and supply herds

Online: Path to farm ownership webinar.

10th Oct 2025 - 12.30 - 1.00pm.
Register online.

Field day – Simple and smart systems – Mata.

4th Nov 2025 - 10.15-1pm.
Register online for more details.

Dairy Women’s Network

Webinar: Increasing Capability Through Practical Dairy Training.

13th Oct 2025 - 12.30 - 1.30pm.
Register online.

Paint and sip; Halloween theme.

29th Oct 2025 -
Mangapai Community Hall,
2 McAlistar Road, Mangapai.
6.30-9.00pm. \$30pp, register
online before 27th Oct 2025.

First Aid on Farms Course.

10TH Nov 2025 - 9.30-2.30pm.
The Lighthouse Function Centre,
Dargaville. 32 Mt Wesley Coast
Road, Dargaville. \$130pp,
includes morning tea and lunch.
Register online.

Beef and Lamb NZ

Sheep Farming for Profit
Field Days with Trevor Cook.

14th Oct 2025. 10.30am.
Kuwara Trust, 599 Run Road
Taporā – Wellsford.
Register online.

West Field Day. Practical and
inspiring field day showcasing the
West Partnership case study.

16th Oct 2025. 9.30am,
lunch provided at 1pm –
1235 Pukehuia Road Woolshed,
Tangiteroria. Register online.

Northland Showcase Day. A working
sheep and beef station offers a rare
glimpse into traditional New Zealand
farming at its finest

29th Oct 2025. 10am – 5pm,
Oneriri Station, 2075 Oneriri Road,
Kaiwaka. Register online.

B+LNZ and Ballance Agri-Nutrients
Making your Fertiliser Count Workshop.

3rd Dec 2025. 10.30-2pm.
Arapohue Hall, 3338 Mititai Road,
Arapohue. Register online.

Rural Support Trust – Community events.

16th Oct 2025. 6.00pm,
Free Community BBQ –
Paparōa Hall. Register online.

20th Nov 2025. 6pm,
Free Community BBQ –
Mata Hall. Register online.

11th Dec 2025.
Free Community BBQ –
Ruawai Hall.
Register online.

Lifestyle Info

Goats - All kids should have a *Covexin 10 in 1* vaccine from 2 weeks old to protect against clostridial diseases. A booster is due 4 weeks later. Some goats will be shedding their winter coat to help them get comfy. Why not give them a good brush over, and to keep their heads down, give them a bucket of multifeed nuts/pellet treats.

Sheep – Book your shearer in early, your woollies will love you for it. Drench time for the mob, including lambs from 20 kg - *Turbo Triple* is a safe option for all your sheep. All lambs should receive a *Covexin 10 in 1* vaccine from 2 weeks of age to protect against clostridial diseases. A booster is due 4 weeks later.

Cattle – Keep an eye out for ticks this time of year. We have already seen them on the calves we have disbudded. These blood sucking parasites harm your growing stock and are a huge nuisance, causing irritable animals. We have *Bantix* for tick treatment in smaller bottles for your convenience.

Alpaca – Now is a good time to body condition score your alpacas and assess their grazing needs before the sweet spring grass grows like crazy. Bring us a faecal sample to check on their worm burden; the barber’s pole doesn’t rest in the Northland conditions.



ANSWER
Show us
your calves.

Waipu Clinic

53 The Centre
Waipu
P 09 432 0693

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:
8.00am-5.00pm
Saturdays:
9.00am-12.30pm

Ruawai Clinic

23 Jellicoe Road
Ruawai
P 09 439 2506

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays: CLOSED

Mangawhai Clinic

36 Moir St
Mangawhai
P 09 431 4535

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays:
9.00am - 12:30pm

Maungaturoto Clinic

184 Hurndall St
Maungaturoto
P 09 431 8318

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays: CLOSED

Ruakākā Clinic

385 Marsden Point Road
Ruakākā
P 09 433 4916

Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:
8.00am - 5.00pm
Saturdays: CLOSED