



The Vet Centre

WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ

August/September
2025



Welcome to the August & September issue

REMINDER

Get your RVM (Restricted Veterinary Medicine) script renewed; this needs to be done annually. If you're unsure of your script's due date, please get in touch with the clinic to confirm and schedule a chat with your favourite vet.

Lifestyle small farm – Goat hoof trims, weighing and drenching calves, vaccinations for sheep and goats pre-lamb. Plus, docking tails and vaccinations for lambs.

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Teat scoring** – Reducing mastitis and gains on milk quality. By Vet Tech Mel
- **Benefits of using Eclipse E B12 and Se in growing heifers**
- **Newborn Calf Colostrum:** – By Vet Tara
- **Rural events** in the region
- **Lifestyle info**

Wet, wild, and wonderful winter has arrived. The farm vet team has been super busy with lots of procedures on farm. Working through the mud and cold, providing farmers with the help they need, and dealing with road closures and power cuts.

Autumn herds – Assisting in mating repro programs, sick and down cows, along with lame cows. Calf vaccinations and faecal egg counts.

Spring herds – Call outs to cow and heifer calvings, with a few c-sections, foetomies, prolapses and twisted uteruses. There have been cases of down and sick cows, and lots of lameness with this wet, sodden ground we all walk upon. We love it when we're called out to help lame cows that have been detected early. We have had the opportunity to bolus cows with copper and slow-release magnesium as preventative treatments, also.

Beef and sheep – Castrations, dehorning, woody tongue, sick cows, calvings, eye procedures, vet certificates, and more lame cows and bulls. We have blood tested sick ewes and assisted in lambing and bearings.



Where do cows go on a first date?

ANSWER
ON PAGE 5



Maximise Your Milk Supply with Teat Scoring

It is no secret that the key to good milk quality is having fewer bacteria present. Therefore, if the cow's teats are in bad nick, then no amount of disinfection will prevent mastitis or a high somatic cell count.

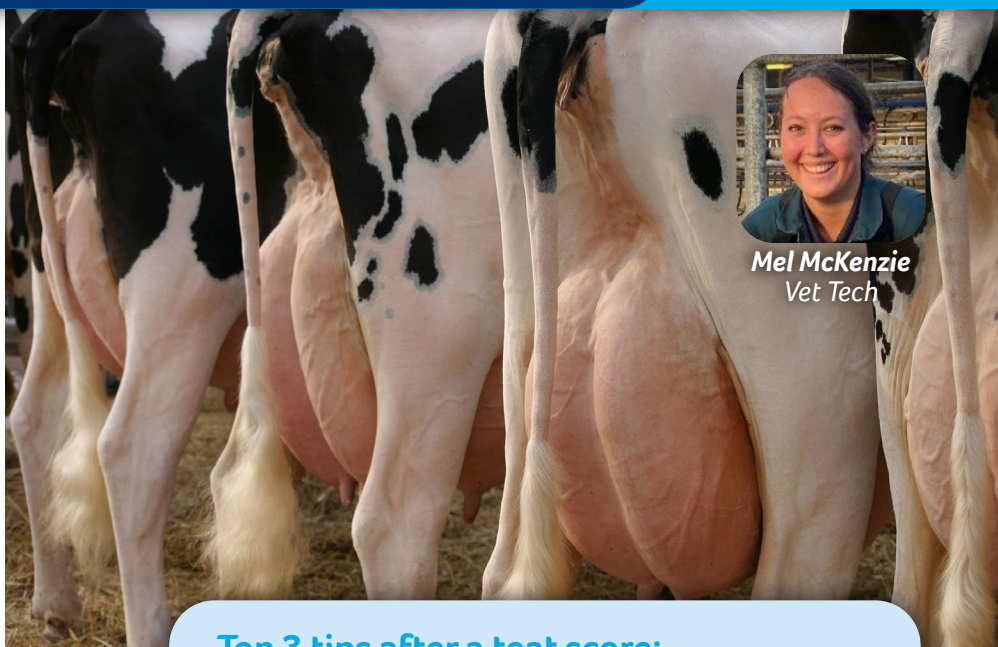
Cows do have a natural defence mechanism against bacteria. If a small number of bacteria does enter the teat canal, the keratin lining within the teat will adhere to the bacteria. During the pulsation at milking, mature keratin sheds along with the bacteria. If a teat end is damaged and rough, this allows large numbers of bacteria to enter the canal, and the keratin is not enough of a defence. The bacteria can then enter further into the udder and create havoc. Cracked, dry teats and rough teat ends create the perfect environment for manure and mud to stick to. With mud and manure comes a boatload of bacteria. A rough, damaged teat end also inhibits the teat opening from closing properly after milking, allowing even more bacteria to enter.

Teat scoring is the best way to identify if there is a teat condition issue. The best time to start teat scoring is one month post-calving. This gives enough time for damage signs to show, but also enough time left in the season to fix the issue and reclaim good milk quality.

Farm staff can be easily trained to teat score! However, if you are short of time, our technicians are raring to teat score your herd, and our vets are keen as to troubleshoot any teat condition issues.

With the payout being fabulous at the moment, why not do everything you can to supply the best quality and quantity of milk this season by ensuring your cow's teats are in the best condition possible?

Give your local clinic a call to chat with your vet or tech about teat scoring and being proactive around reducing mastitis.



Mel McKenzie
Vet Tech

Top 3 tips after a teat score:

- Check your teat spray & emollient usage
- Check vacuum pressure on the milking machine
- Assess your milking time – cups on.

The Vet Centre has posters for your cow shed to use as a prompt in aiding you to check those teats. Just ask one of our team for a free poster.

RAIN OR SHINE...

Using DMI-Sorb™ rain resistant technology, TURBO® and BOSS® Pour On are products you can depend on in New Zealand's unpredictable weather. Come rain or shine, enjoy the ultimate parasite coverage.



Purchase a 5L of TURBO® or BOSS® Pour-On and receive a NZ Made Far South Oilskin vest*.



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Benefits of using - Eclipse E B12 +Se in growing heifers

PLEASE NOTE

Eclipse E b12 and Selenium must be stored in the fridge. Injectable, given under the skin. Prices subject to change.

Do you drench your calves and heifers? Do you give your calves and heifers B12 and selenium?

Sometimes the answer is, "Only when I give an oral drench".

The best answer is, "You can with the convenience of two treatments in one injection, easily give a combo drench and vitamins. For only \$4.25 per 200kg heifer. That is less than a cup of coffee."

Parasite treatment and control.

Eprinomectin and levamisole combo drench. Safe to give to young calves. Ideally, the mob should be weighed, or weigh taped, before treatment is given – dose rate to be based on the heaviest calf. Eclipse B12 and selenium can be given from 88kgs, from weaning. Treatment and control of lungworms and roundworms, the main target worms being *Ostertagia* and *Cooperia*.

Withhold:

Meat – 21 days,

Milk – 35 days.

Dose rate 1ml / 35kgs.

Additional B12 and selenium vitamins.

Selenium is an essential trace mineral, critical for growth, reproduction and immunity. Cobalt B12 is also an essential trace mineral. Ruminants take up cobalt in their diet, which is converted into vitamin B12 by rumen microbes. Deficiency in pasture cobalt leads to vitamin B12 deficiency in livestock. Vitamin B12 is required for two major enzyme pathways in ruminants, which are crucial in the production of energy and DNA. It's also vital in many functions of the animal's body, supporting growth, reproduction, and milk production.

As always, performing faecal egg counts is recommended to assess the need for treatment in young stock. Please bring in a small jar or container of recent faecal matter for our team to test for you.

Eclipse EB12 and Selenium 500ml now \$373.27 including GST. Phone your local clinic to reserve your bottle and get those heifers growing today.



Looking after yourself means looking after your farm.



Newborn calves & Colostrum: The 3 Q's

Newborn calves are born with almost no antibodies. Meaning they rely solely on that gold colostrum (often that first drink from mum) to receive antibodies and a passive immunity for protection. The challenge is their gut only has a short window by which it can receive these antibodies from milk, and so those first 24 hours of life are crucial to the calves' short- and long-term health. When calves receive adequate transfer of antibodies, there are increases in feed efficiency, fertility, growth, and a reduction in pre- and post-weaning mortality.

This is why when we talk about newborn calves and colostrum, you need to think of the 3 Q's:

QUICKLY, QUANTITY, QUALITY

Quickly – Calves need to receive colostrum in the first 4-12 hours of life to ensure good antibody transfer. This window declines exponentially, so by 12 hours, they can only absorb 5% and after 24 hours, the calf will no longer be able to absorb any at all.

Quantity – Calves require 4-6L of colostrum or 10-15% of their bodyweight in the first 24 hours of their life, ideally, across multiple feedings with no more than 2L at a time. This is the only time in which it is appropriate to tube feed a calf milk.

Quality – The quality of colostrum can be measured by a Brix refractometer (consider getting one for your farm from *The Vet Centre!*). A measure of 22 or higher = Gold colostrum, which is best for 1-day-old calves. 21-19 is suitable for calves aged 2-4 days. Under 19 is too low. The more time between calving and first milk collection, the lower the antibody level.

Some cows also naturally produce more gold colostrum; it is good to identify these girls. Alternatively, we can take milk sample readings in clinic for you.

If the Qs are not met, then we can see Failure of Passive Transfer (FPT). When this occurs, the calf has little immune protection from its surrounding environmental pathogens and will often become sick or fail to grow effectively and may lag compared to the rest of its herd mates.

FPT can be checked for by collecting a blood sample from calves between 24 hours and 7



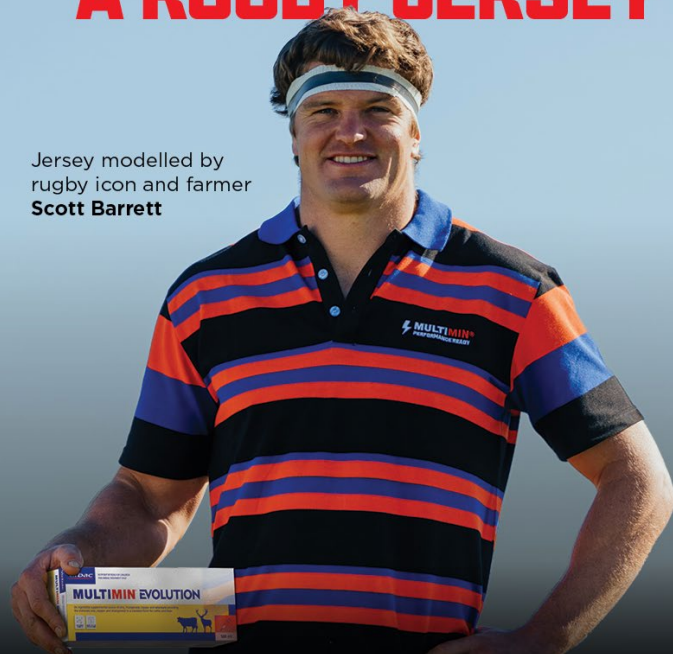
Tara Brophy
BVSc, Vet

days of age. Contact your local clinic if you are interested, and we can arrange this for you.

Give your calves the best start to life and ensure they are getting the 3 Q's: QUICKLY in the first 24 hours, QUANTITY with 10-15% of bodyweight in colostrum, QUALITY with a reading of 22 or higher, using a Brix Refractometer. If you want to have a chat about colostrum in your calves, just stop in to any of our clinics.

SCORE A RUGBY JERSEY

Jersey modelled by
rugby icon and farmer
Scott Barrett



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RECEIVE A FREE RUGBY JERSEY***

*While stocks last. T&C's apply.

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ON EVERY FIELD
THIS SEASON**

**ASK YOUR VET FOR
MULTIMIN®**



Rural Professional Events in the region – NORTHLAND

The Vet Centre Farmers BBQs.
Please see the invite within this newsletter.

Fonterra site visit –

28 August – Kauri Dairy Factory.
2-4pm Sh1 Kauri. Registrations essential.

Beef+Lamb Director Roadshow.

25 September – 10.30am – 2.30pm
Maungaturoto Country Club,
84 Bickerstaffe Road,
Maungaturoto. Registrations essential.

FMG Northland Home and Lifestyle Show.

26-28 September –
10am – 5pm.
McKay Stadium,
97 Western Hills Drive,
Kensington,
Whangarei.

Cow fun fact:

Cows lie around a lot but need very little sleep.



The mooooovies.



Lifestyle Info

Goats – Did you know that kid goat disbudding ideally needs to be done within 5 days of birth, but no later than 7 days? Kid castration by rubber ring is done at 8-12 weeks to reduce the risk of urethral trapping.

Sheep – Keep an eye on lambing ewes needing assistance. It is a good idea to have some colostrum, a teat and bottle, lamb milk replacer powder, and old blankets or towels on hand in case you end up with orphans.

Cattle – Now is a good time to body condition score and check for any lameness in your cattle. A faecal egg count should be performed between 10 and 20 days after a drench.

Alpaca – With the ground sodden, it is vital to keep checking the feet of your alpaca.



FREE!

Vaccination and docking for pet day

We are proud to announce our annual pet day service

Pet day is happening soon.
Get your pet lamb, calf or kid vaccinated and docked.

Phone your local clinic.

Maungaturoto	09 431 8318
Mangawhai	09 431 4535
Ruakākā	09 433 4916
Ruawai	09 439 2506
Waipu	09 432 0693


The Vet Centre
Maungaturoto | Waipu | Mangawhai | Ruawai | Ruakākā

We care, pets, people, community

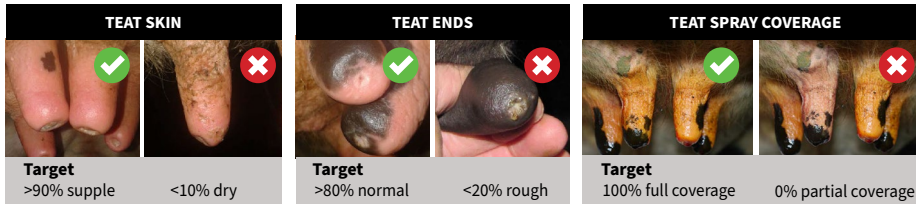
www.thevetcentrenorthland.co.nz

REDUCE MASTITIS AND IMPROVE MILK QUALITY

MONITOR

Teat score 50 cows in early, mid and late lactation

Healthy teat skin and teat ends reduce the risk of bacteria entering the teat canal and causing mastitis



If below target

Repair damaged/muddy races
 Wash dirty teats before cupping
 Add 10-15% extra emollient to teat spray

Minimise over-milking
 Arrange a vet milking-time visit to assess vacuum, pulsation etc.

Staff training
 Check auto sprayers

Your results

	Date	% Supple teat skin	% Normal teat ends	% Full teat spray coverage
Early				
Mid				
Late				

- Strip herd once a week
- Routinely test clinical mastitis
- Schedule 4+ herd tests per year



MANAGE

Clinical mastitis

Signs include hot swollen quarter and/or milk that has clots, flecks or is watery



If you find a mastitis case



Subclinical mastitis

- Use Mastatest HiSCC for:
 - RMT positive colostrum cows
 - Highest 20 SCC cows at each herd test (to identify *Staph.* cows)
- Manage *Staph. aureus* cows to reduce spread of infection e.g. milk last
- Cull chronically infected cows based on herd test SCC, and Mastatest results
- Treat infected cows with dry cow therapy at drying off



MINIMISE

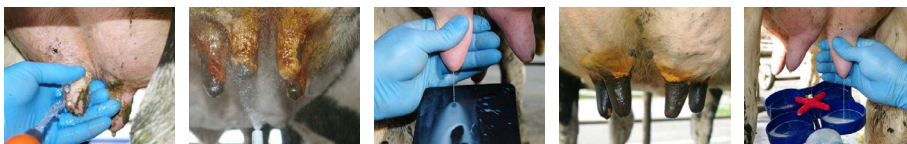
Dry cows / springers

Treat heifers pre-calving with teat sealant. At drying off treat uninfected cows with teat sealant, and treat likely infected cows with antibiotic dry cow therapy and/or teat sealant.

Teat spray every time cows come to the shed

Milk cows if they leak before calving

Colostrum cows



Wash teats if they are dirty - use low pressure water and rub each dirty teat

Teat spray before milking to reduce spread of bacteria and for more comfortable milking

Strip each quarter every milking to detect and treat mastitis early

Milk each cow, and then teat spray again. Ensure full coverage of all teats

Rapid Mastitis Test (RMT) on 8th milking for cows, or 10th milking for heifers

Milking cows



Wash teats if they are dirty - use low pressure water and rub each dirty teat

Bend hose and wait until vacuum drops before removing cups

Teat spray every surface of every teat after every milking

Weekly - strip each quarter to detect clinical mastitis early

Adopt efficient milking with MaxT
www.dairynz.co.nz/milking/milking-efficiently

Ready to Milk assessment

Teat Spray Mix

Active (L)	Emollient (L)	Water (L)	Total(L)

VacuumkPa

Liner replacement every.....months

Actions:

End of season milk quality review date/...../.....

TOP TIPS

1. Keep hands clean during milking
2. Don't spray water onto udders
3. Teat spraying reduces new infections by 50% so teat spray every teat every milking all year
4. Milk the 'young cow' herd first

Join us for a Burger & a Chat at our Farmer's BBQ!

*Spring's a busy and often stressful time on the farm –
so let's hit pause and catch up over a free lunch, on us!*

WHERE & WHEN:

- Ruawai Clinic – 14th August
- Maungaturoto Clinic – 15th August
- Waipu Clinic – 19th August
- Mangawhai Domain – 20th August
(73 Moir Street, Mangawhai 0505)



Time: 12pm – 2pm

Who's Invited: Bring your farm team, bring the whānau –
everyone's welcome!

BBQ, good chats, and great company guaranteed.

RSVP: Call your local clinic before 12th August
to let us know you're coming.

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