



The Vet Centre

WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ

June/July
2025



Whether you are unpacking from the big move on gypsy day or already in the mix of early lactation, a dairy farmer's work is never done, yet they keep going. Reminder to manage biosecurity risks when moving stock, people and machinery... Update your biosecurity plan, keep NAIT records up to date, and check pre-movement testing (TB, BVD, Johne's disease). *The Vet Centre* is proud to support the ongoing efforts of our farming community.

Spring farms have been busy drying off their herds. Organising their heifers back to the farm, moving their young stock to grazing, and watching the grass grow like no tomorrow after the heavens opened in April, which was much needed after the dry summer we have had here in parts of Northland.

Autumn farms have been focusing on mating plans, milking, and

mastitis management, along with calf rearing, disbudding and vaccinations. It has been very much heads down for these farmers.

Beef and sheep units have been blood testing for trace elements required for good pre-mating management and discussing and booking early reproduction plans with our vets.

The farm team has been busy performing liver biopsies, body condition scoring (BCS) herds and mobs, autumn disbudding and metrichecking, and

curing, as well as drying offspring herds and heifer teat sealing, even in the dark during a power cut. Thank goodness for head torches. We also had the farm team refresh on "why" and "how to" for cow fluid hydration therapy. Ask one of the farm team all about it.

IN THIS ISSUE

- **LIC visit feedback** from Farm Vet Thomas Traill
- **Rural Professional events in the region**
- **Uterine Health and Metrichecking** by Vet Tech Jenna Fraser
- **Molesworth Sheepdog trials celebrate milestone**
- **Lifestyle info**



LIC visit feedback

What proportion of your replacement heifers are from the top 50% BW cows in your herd?

Nicole and I recently had the privilege of visiting LIC's Ruakura head office and sire bull farms. A highlight was getting to know some of the bulls and seeing the bull teams – especially a few local Northland bulls now based there – and learning about the LIC team's latest research and insights, including a tour of the labs and the methane farm – that's where the banana shoe covers come into play.

Looking ahead, we're keen to strengthen our connection with your breeding company's local professionals, including the area managers. Closer collaboration will enable us to align our advice and leverage each other's expertise, delivering high-value outcomes for your farming operation.

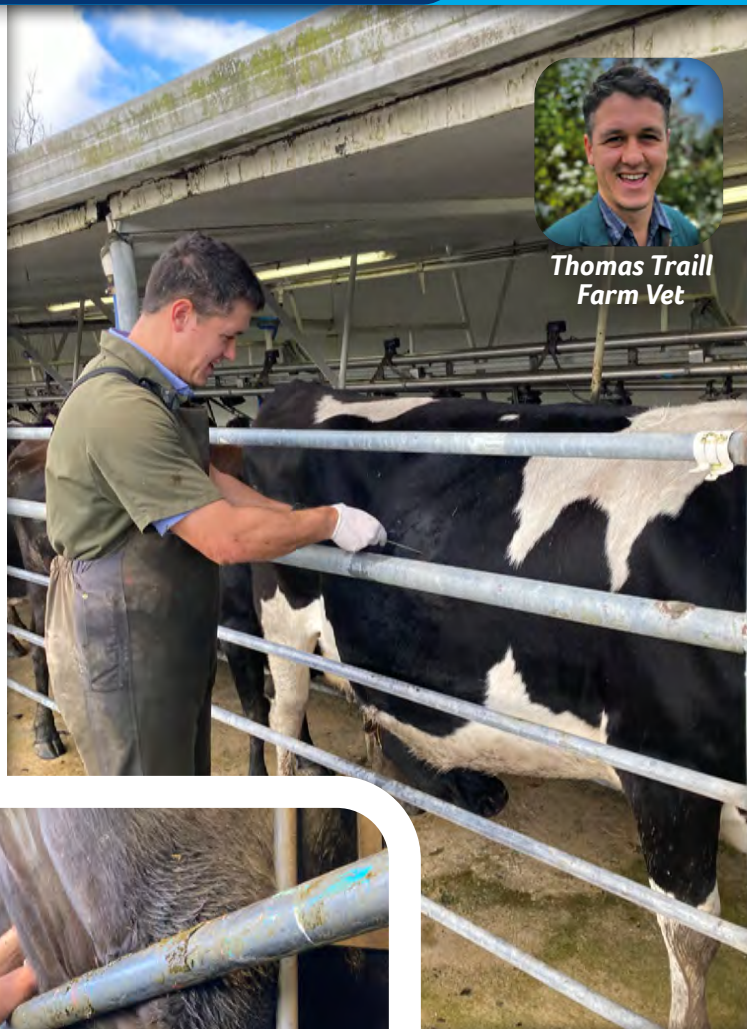
Two key data points discussed and presented during our visit to LIC that stood out and we felt may be worth reviewing on your farm:

1. Herd Production Spread:

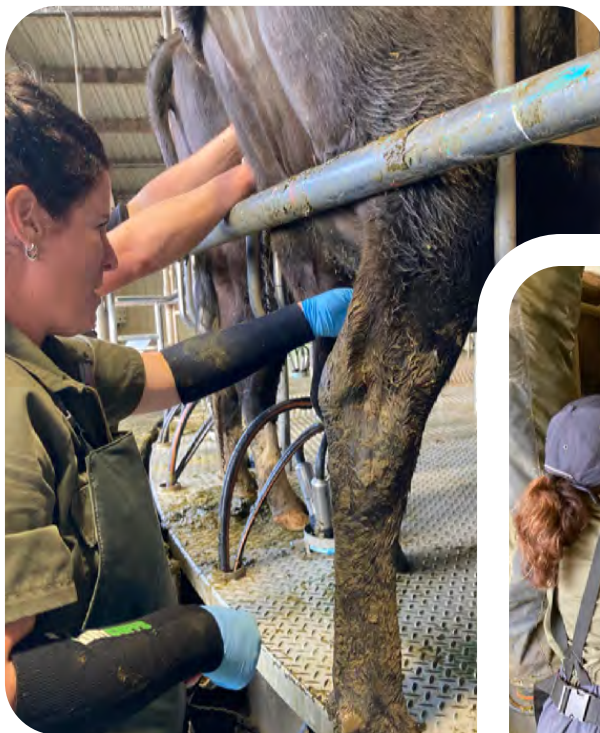
What is the difference in seasonal milk solids (kgMS) between your top and bottom-producing cows? The national average is 140–150 kgMS. Knowing your own herd's spread could highlight opportunities to improve efficiency and consistency.

2. Replacement Heifers from Top BW Cows:

Nationally, on a farm level, 55% of replacement heifers come from the top 50% of BW cows. Where does your farm sit in comparison? Tracking this could be a valuable KPI. Increasing the proportion of replacements from high-BW cows drives faster genetic gain and long-term herd improvement.



Thomas Traill
Farm Vet



ONE FINAL QUESTION:

For a dairy calf in NZ, what is the most common recorded date of birth during the year?

I'll have a few spot prizes available if you catch me and get the correct answer!



Uterine Health and Metrichecking

ENDOMETRITIS VS METRITIS;

a healthy uterus = higher fertility = productive dairy farming



Jenna Fraser
Vet Tech

WHAT?

ENDOMETRITIS is a subclinical (no signs or symptoms) bacterial infection of the uterine lining typically occurring >3 weeks post-calving and can affect up to 25% of cows.

These cows often go undetected and need metrichecking to pick them out.

WHEN?

Often, this can be due to:

- Contamination from a dead calf
- Assisted calving
- Retained foetal membranes
- Anything affecting cow health (poor transition, metabolic issues, etc.).

Untreated cows with this type of reproductive tract disease take longer to conceive at mating or may not conceive at all. In some cases, some cows with endometritis will not have any history of calving problems. Therefore, early detection and treatment are the best options to improve 6-week in-calf rates and milk production.

HOW TO TREAT?

Whole herd metrichecking can be done in two ways:

- 1. Single herd check** – check the whole herd approximately one month before mating and treat as you go with a uterine antibiotic.
- 2. Batch metrichecking** – checking a new batch of cows every two to three weeks based on their calving dates. This would usually begin three to four weeks after the 1st cow calves and continue this pattern until the whole herd is checked.

PREVENTION!!

Effective management through the transition period will help to prevent this disease.

- Optimal BCS prior to calving >5 for cows and >5.5 for heifers

During Autumn, for the Spring herd, to allow for adequate time to change diet for optimal BCS, it's a good idea to get a non-biased BCS done by one of our accredited scorers.

- Keeping cows with diseases low in number at calving time.
- Making sure your trace elements are up to scratch.
- Using smaller bulls for breeding with Heifers.

WHAT?

METRITIS is a full-thickness bacterial infection of the uterus typically occurring <3 weeks post-calving and can affect up to 40% of cows. Clinical signs include:

- Fever >39.5 or hypothermia if the cow is deteriorating
- Lethargy, depression
- Dehydration (sunken eyes skin tent)
- Sudden drop in milk production
- Foul-smelling vaginal discharge or pus (the most common way to determine)

WHEN?

Chances of this inflammation happening often are due to:

- An assisted calving
- Retained foetal membranes
- Twins
- Stillbirth
- Abortion

- Cows with a BCS of <4 at calving
- Ketosis
- Or older cows.

HOW TO TREAT?

Best practice is to take the temperatures of all newly calved cows within a week of calving to pick up on any fevers and continue to monitor for discharge daily.

If you think you have a sick cow, call your vet!

PREVENTION!!

Best management practices to decrease Metritis cases:

- Identify (take temperature)
- Record of cows with the above risk factors
- Providing sanitary calving facilities
- For hard calvings, give 1-3 doses of Ketomax
- Be as clean as possible when assisting calvings. To ensure you are always ready and prepared, it's a good idea to have a calving bucket stocked with essentials such as Vetsan (for hand washing), lubricant, gloves, ropes, pain relief, and any other necessary equipment.
- Consult with your Veterinarian to create a plan.

ALL THE BEST OUT THERE, WISHING YOU ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY CALVING SEASON!!





Pre-calving checklist

Phone your local **Vet Centre** clinic to arrange your list to be packed ready for pick up.

- ✓ THE VET CENTRE on speed dial in all staff phones
- ✓ RVM/PAR Script complete
- ✓ Rotavirus vaccine booked
- ✓ Calf pen cleaned, disinfected and dry with new bedding
- ✓ Hospital pen set up, isolated
- ✓ Obstetric supplies, e.g., KetoMax, oxytocin, propercillin
- ✓ Ropes, lube, drugs, iodine spray, milk sample pottles
- ✓ Tuber feeder, refractometer
- ✓ Thermometer
- ✓ Multimin
- ✓ Metabolics and calf electrolytes
- ✓ Scour tests, prevention, and treatment supplies.



Dairy Cattle RUMBUL Product Range

RUMBUL CATTLE

A sustained release bolus containing an alloy of magnesium, copper and aluminium. Licenced to aid the prevention of hypomagnesaemia in cattle grazing rapidly growing spring grass. RUMBUL CATTLE helps farmers manage the magnesium status of their herd over high risk periods.

RUMBUL CATTLE is intended for cattle over 300 kg.



Rural Professional Events in the region – NORTHLAND

Dairy Women's Network Webinars, register online.

9th June – Get sorted for the end of the season. Part two.

16th June – Your farm, your finances: ask us anything.

25th June – MINDA Integrations, all you need to know.

The Vet Centre and Agrihealth – Mastitis: Lunch and Learn.

17th June, 12pm – 2pm. Maungaturoto clinic. RSVP to maungaturoto@thevetcentre.net.nz or 09 4318318

DairyNZ – Northland Agricultural Research Farm Field Day – Future farm systems.

18th June, 10am – 1pm
531 SH12 Dargaville. Lunch provided. RSVP to hamish.matthews@dairynz.co.nz

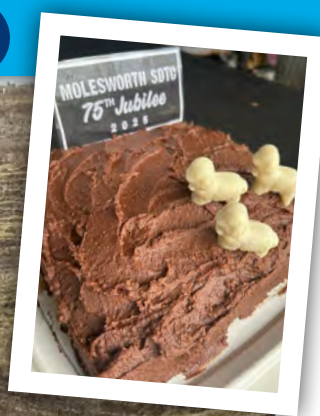
Dairy Training Calving – smart event

25th June 10am – Northern Wairoa Memorial RSA Club, 26 Hokianga Road, Dargaville. Register online



How did the farmer find the cow?

ANSWER ON PAGE 7



Molesworth Sheep Dog Trials celebrate a milestone

The Vet Centre sponsored the Molesworth Sheep Dog Trial Club's 75th Jubilee back in April, providing support and prizes for the club. The club's history dates back to Mangawhai, where it held its first trial in 1960 on the Hastie and Wharfe farms, now known as The Sanctuary and Tangaroa Road. In 1966, it moved to its current home on Oneriri Road, Kaiwaka. As is often the case in Molesworth trial history, there was some rain (much needed) on day one, with the sun shining on day two, bringing out plenty of visitors, dog trialists and the general public who'd travelled from as far as the Far North and Waikato in the South. The two-day trial is made up of four events: two for heading (or eye) dogs, the short head and yard, and the long head, and two for Huntaways, the zig-zag and the straight hunts. Some of *The Vet Centre* team members came out for a visit to see what many of our clients are involved in from around the region and got to see a number of the working dogs that have been patients in our clinics, out there doing their 'day jobs'. Congratulations, Molesworth SDTC, on 75 successful years.

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*.



TURBO® and BOSS® and DMI-Sorb™ are registered trademarks of Alleva Animal Health Ltd. TURBO Pour-on (A011722) and BOSS Pour-on (A10817) are registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997. See www.foodsafety.govt.nz for registration conditions. *Available while stocks last.



SPECIAL MENTIONS:

The Vet Centre and Agrihealth – Mastitis lunch and learn.

17th June, 12pm – 2pm @ the Maungaturoto clinic.

This is an open invitation to farmers to learn about the initiatives surrounding mastitis, including those who already have a mastatest machine on their farm. RSVP to maungaturoto@thevetcentre.net.nz or 09 4318318

Keep an eye out for our **Annual Spring Calving BBQs** coming up in the following newsletter – 12th August Waipu, 13th August Mangawhai, 14th August Ruawai, 15th August Maungaturoto. Save the date in your calendar now.



STAFF UPDATE

Vet Emily, Liam & family have had a beautiful, healthy baby boy, whom they have named Bryn. A huge congratulations to Emily for growing and delivering their third child in amongst the fantastic job she does at the Waipu clinic.

Mastitis Lunch AND Learn

Practical advice on how farmers can save money, produce more milk of higher quality and achieve milk premiums



- How to effectively minimise, monitor & manage mastitis
- Learn how thousands of NZ farmers have reduced antibiotic usage by >20% and improved their mastitis cure rates
- Tips on how to manage Staph. aureus
- Insights from >200,000 New Zealand mastitis test results
- What's happening in the area with mastitis? Local insights from mastitis data in your area
- Latest dry cow strategies for a healthier, more productive herd

RSVP to the Clinic by Monday 16th June, either email maungaturoto@thevetcentre.net.nz or call 09 431 8318.



WHEN: Tuesday 17th June at 12pm. A light lunch will be supplied.

WHERE: The Vet Centre Maungaturoto Clinic

WHO'S INVITED
Dairy farm owners & staff interested in mastitis management



Evidence based vet medicines

0800 821 421

www.agrihealth.co.nz **AgriHealth**

MSTA-LHLDemo.06-24



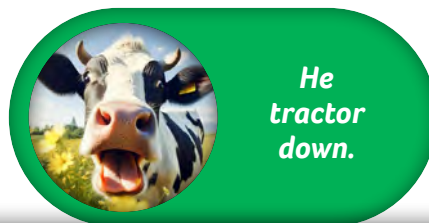
Lifestyle Info

Young stock (under 15 months old) – ensure you are continuing with their monthly drenching. Young stock are still at risk of internal parasite infestations. Drenching breaks the parasite's lifecycle and aids in the development of resistance. This time of year, the parasite to target is the liver fluke for cattle and sheep. The best practice is to weigh your animals before drenching to ensure you are administering the correct dose rate. Our clinic has scales that you can hire and technicians who can come out and provide assistance to help you get the job done.

Adult stock – will benefit from an autumn drench, especially if they have not had a drench for a few months. If you want to know if your drench is working, bring in a sample of faeces (about a yoghurt pot full) for us to test in clinic.

Alpacas – As the weather changes, so do their needs. Alpacas need vitamin D supplementation over the winter months; this is crucial for young cria's growth and development. Also, their feet will need to be checked before the wetter time of the year to reduce lameness.

Sheep – Vaccination with a Multine 5in1 or Covexin 10 pre-lambing is essential for ewes. Give three weeks before lambing. Ensure ewes are crutched (shorn around the back end) well before lambing to give the lambs a clean entry into the world and make it easy to assist if needed.



Winner of the Facial Eczema crossword from the February March 2025 LA newsletter – Kirsty Hamlin from Ruawai.

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 Hurdall 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