



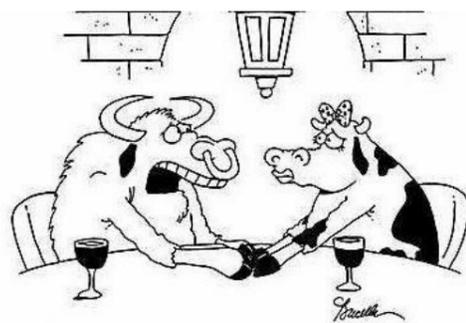
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"It has nothing to do with you, Bessie. It's just that I'm lactose intolerant."

Down cow prognosis

Our occasionally friendly neighbours across the ditch have recently investigated the fate of 'downer cows' at calving.

A downer cow is a cow that can't get up for any reason around the time of calving. The aim of the study was to see how important secondary problems were. Secondary problems are issues caused by the fact that the cow is down, muscle damage would be the most common.

This Australian study

found that of the downer cows studied only 25% had recovered within a week of going down and a further 7% recovered after that. This means around 68% of downer cows died. Of the cows that died 72% died from secondary issues such as muscle damage or malnutrition.

Please don't take this to mean downer cows are all doomed. It does however highlight the importance of prompt detection and treatment. These secondary issues

only take a day or two to start to develop so treating the primary issue rapidly will markedly improve their prognosis.

It also shows that if you are persisting with a down cow you need to be in tune with her welfare status. If her welfare begins to diminish she will require euthanasia as she is most likely going to die anyway.

As always, prevention is better than a cure. Don't be the hearse at the bottom of the cliff.

Cold Night

The rain drops fell from his oilskin hat.

Darkness crept in like a melancholic cat

Shivers of solidarity sweep through his and his cow.

He is cold and she's taken the milk fever bow.

He fills her vein with his calcium compound.

Her strength grows and her heart starts to pound.

The warmth of success floods into his chest.

Her chance of survival is now at its best.

Out of the rain the young farmer shrinks.

Into the warm to catch a hundred winks.

Special Points of Interest:

- > Transition your cows well to optimize your submission rates at the start of mating
- > Monitoring ewe body condition will allow you to optimise colostrum quality and milk production in all your ewes

Magnesium. Don't over do it.

Magnesium forms the backbone of any dairy farm's metabolic disease prevention program.

Although it is good, more is not always merrier. Excessive magnesium can inhibit calcium utilization

and actually induce milk fever. This usually presents as milk fever cases occurring in cows that have long calved.

Most often excessive magnesium is caused by over zealous dusting of

magnesium oxide. 60g/cow/day is plenty for most farm management systems when combined with 40g/cow/day magnesium chloride. Feel free to contact us with any further questions.

Mastitis—Intramammaries vs. Injectables

Try as you might mastitis will almost always rear its head during spring in a dairy herd. It can make a time poor farmer into a chronologically poverty stricken one and turn a good cow into a burger fueling the internal cogs of Trumpland.

However, there is hope!

Mastitis treatments, generally in the form of antibiotics are often a cow's best chance at avoiding the milky gates in the sky.

One area of confusion is often whether to use intramammary or injectable antibiotics. It is easiest to decide if you understand how each product works.

Intramammaries: These products infuse a MASSIVE amount of antibiotic

directly into the udder. This means a large amount of antibiotic generally reaches the bacteria causing the mastitis. They only reach relatively low concentrations in the blood. One of the largest risks associated with intramammary products is the possibility of more bacteria being squirted into the udder when you give the tube. To avoid this you need to be 100% clean, it is a surgical procedure so you need to disinfect the teat appropriately.

Injectable: These products deliver a high amount of antibiotic to the entire body. Some antibiotics are designed to accumulate in areas of infection but will not reach the same levels of

concentration in the udder as an intramammary will.

With this information in mind we can decide which form will get the most antibiotic to the site of infection. In single quarter mastitis. Intramammaries are king.

If the cow is sick the bacteria is in her blood, injectables win this event. When multiple quarters are affected then injectables are most cost effective, one injection is cheaper than 2 intramammaries.

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LACTATORS ANONYMOUS

Crossfit animals

High intensity interval training, known as HIIT to gym junkies is an in vogue training method to achieve higher fitness goals. Such a training method can be used cautiously in animals and has shown impressive results in horses.

It works on the idea that training at a high intensity for a short period of time, recovering and then repeating the training allows a greater amount of time to be spent at maximum intensity than if one was to try and maintain maximum intensity in one drawn out session.

The rest intervals allow muscle energy stores to replenish, lactic acid to be removed and a period of mental recovery for the horse.

The aim is to reach maximal heart rate during exercise (180-200

beats per minute) and have the horse recover to 110-120bpm within 5 minutes. Most owners have to judge this based visible signs of animal exertion. If the animal has not recovered within 5 minutes it shows that the high intensity session was too long and the training session should be aborted. Typically a very fit horse would only have a high intensity period of less than 1 minute 40seconds and most training programs would call for less than 50 seconds of high intensity.

HIIT programs are significantly more strenuous on the animal than a classic training program. For this reason caution is advised. Horses entering this program type require a good base fitness level. They also require less frequent training, once every 4 days is a typical training recommendation.

The trainer must also be acutely aware of OTS or 'over training syndrome'. This is characterized by a development of reduced performance or unwillingness of the horse to train. This can happen under any training regime but requires a lengthy recovery period so is best avoided.

If training towards one particular event then it is possible to end the training program with a 2 week taper. This involves shortening the high intensity intervals to maintain intensity but reduce duration. This has shown to significantly improve performance.

Remember as for any training program adequate hydration is key. Adding electrolyte supplementation will help this. Also adequate calories are necessary so feed adequate feed but not within 2 hours before training.

HIIT can be useful for improving both aerobic (endurance) and anaerobic (sprint) performance so may be useful for a wide range of disciplines.

Happy horsing.

Scanning performance year to year

A recent study conducted by Lincoln University was aimed at assessing one of the consequences of rearing multiple lambs on the ewes subsequent reproductive performance. There has occasionally been talk that rearing multiple lambs, particularly triplets is hard on the ewe and knocks her around, reducing her reproductive performance in the next season.

Lincoln University's study followed a flock of Wiltshire sheep over a 13 year period. The result is probably good news for any sheep farmer out there continually driving for

higher lambing percentages. They found that providing the ewe met her pretup target live weight for the next season then her performance was unchanged. Basically a ewe can raise many lambs year in, year out as long as she is fed appropriately.

It does highlight the need to adequately feed your ewes prior to tugging. It has long been quoted that an increase of 1kg average ewe liveweight increases lambing percentage by 2%. This however isn't the case if your average ewe condition score is above 3.5/5. Basically it means ewes are not fed well



enough to perform at their maximum if they have a condition score less than 3.5 at tugging. What this suggests is that an average flock condition score of 3.5/5 should be your pretup target to maximize ewe performance year in year out.

Feeding

Feeding is the number one cause of poor performance in animals. Always make sure nutrition is adequate before blaming something else for poor performance.

Calpromag offers extra advantages in the treatment of Milk Fever in Cattle

Milk fever, a condition in which there is a low level of calcium in the blood, occurs when there is insufficient intake or absorption of calcium and inefficient mobilisation of calcium from body stores, (in bone).

Most cases of milk fever are in mature cattle during late pregnancy or the first 3 days after calving. Cases can occur at other times, especially if the animal is under stress or eating a diet with an imbalance of minerals. High producing animals are most at risk.

Both clinical cases of milk fever and sub-clinical deficiencies of calcium are important. Production losses have a huge economic impact. Many factors can contribute to milk fever incidences, e.g. animal genetics, fertiliser history, feeding regime, management procedures such as yarding. Calcium solutions are the treatment of choice for milk fever as they correct the low blood calcium level.

Calpromag contains magnesium, calcium and Vitamin B12.

Vitamin B12 has a role to play in the prevention and treatment of milk fever. Parturition and lactation suddenly increase the demand for glucose (for lactose – milk sugar) and for circulation calcium. Reserves can soon become depleted.

Dietary carbohydrates are broken down in the stomach of the ruminant. Under the influence of a Vitamin B12 dependent enzyme, glucose is produced in the liver.

Cobalt/Vitamin B12 deficiency in ruminants is characterised by reduced appetite, anaemia, weight loss, muscular inco-ordination and listlessness. Trials have shown that vitamin B12 treatment increased the glucose level in the blood and increases appetite.

Calpromag is sold in 500ml bags and can be given in the vein or under the skin.



Lameness treatment

Horses suffering from bone spavin or navicular disease have a treatment option available in the form of Tildren. This is a drug that is given to the horse via an infusion (large injection) once per year. It reduces bone remodeling which is the major cause of pain and lameness in these diseases. It has shown good results in the past with performance horses and might be right for your horse. A full lameness exam is required to ensure this is the cause of your horses lameness.