



Copper Levels in Deer

Copper deficiency is a wide spread and serious issue in New Zealand farmed deer, probably in the wild population too. It is not uncommon to have a yearling or weaner break their back when brought into the yards, or even have the legs of a deer break easily when butchering a game animal. This is due to bone weakness brought about by copper deficiency.

The difficult thing is, how to get the copper into the deer. A good place to start is with soil testing. This may reveal either low copper or high

molybdenum, iron or sulphur which inhibit copper uptake. Your fertilizer rep may be able to dream up a brew to help correct this. Testing the livers of animals at the works is also a good idea as this answers the question 'do I even have a problem?', the answer might be no.

If fertilizer modification isn't an option then copper sulfate can be sprayed on cut grass before it is insiled to increase its copper content. Another alternative is to put the copper into the animal

directly. This is done via injection or copper bullet. Copper bullets are safer and longer lasting however they are much more difficult to give.

If you have a well established water scheme then taking a leaf out of the dairy farming handbook and installing a 'dosatron' to deliver minerals as a daily dose in the water is also a very effective way of controlling many minerals including selenium, magnesium and cobalt as well.

Age of Castration

The young bull calf had a tingling urge and coming of age, hormones tend to surge. The farmer saw what was about to happen and rushed about to prevent the said passion

As the calf was of the age of **half a year** the amount of options increased, oh dear. For the use of RINGS, pain meds and loperamide is a **MUST** or welfare council will be there for a bust.

If the bull calf was **8 month or older** RINGS aren't enough, you have to be bolder. The vet makes 2 cuts, a flick and a pull the young calf was free, the whole paddock full.



Vetco Ltd

Edendale Clinic
14 Sweeney Street
Edendale 9825
Ph: 03 206 6170
Fax: 03 206 6171

Kennington Clinic
11 Clapham Road
Kennington 9871
Ph: 03 230 4689
Fax: 03 230 4026

We're on the web!

www.vetco.co.nz



Special Interest:

- A new oral phosphate supplementation is available should you have cows down on fodderbeet or down at calving.
- With spring on the horizon horse owners may be dreading the silly months caused by a flush of spring grass. Daily supplementation with magnesium will help calm horses over this period. Other supplements, mostly containing tryptophan are available also which may have some effect.

Extended Opening Hours

From Saturday 11th August until Sunday 30th September 2018 our clinics will be open 7 days 8.00am-5.00pm

After Hours Veterinary Service

Please phone the listed clinic telephone number when you require veterinary services after hours. Your call will be automatically transferred to the cellphone of the on call veterinarian. If you are required to leave a message please leave your name and phone number. As many calls to our after hours service are made from cellphones, reception at times can be distorted. If the veterinarian has not responded to your message please do not hesitate to call again.



Merchandise and Product Requirements

All products will be available from the clinics during our weekend hours

Delivery Service

If you require product delivered (this includes the above weekends) please phone before 10.00am and the delivery will be made the same day. You can also email us your delivery requirements on the following address: deliveries@vetco.co.nz



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Biosecurity

With a recent event in New Zealand that goes by the name of Mycoplasma bovis biosecurity should be at the forefront of every cattle farmers mind. The basics of this is making sure any person or equipment that comes on farm is cleaned and disinfected or doesn't come at all if its not required. Double boundary fencing is also a great idea to prevent nose to nose contact with neighbours and best of all no stock coming onto farm or grazing away. If grazing

off farm is necessary then it is ideal to not have them mixed with other stock and to have at least 2 fences between them. Beef and Lamb NZ and Dairy NZ both have biosecurity check lists available to go through and it is highly recommended you do.

M. bovis is not the only critter that can be combatted with good biosecurity. Others include BVD, Johne's, TB, cryptosporidium, rotavirus and salmonella. One thing that often is forgotten is

that new imported animals can bring parasites and bacteria that are resistant to drenches and antibiotics respectively.

Importing cows to a dairy farm can bring in difficult to treat mastitis bacteria and cause a world of pain for mastitis and cell count management.

M bovis is a wake up call, don't be caught napping, and please, record all animal movements, this outbreak has shown why it is so important.

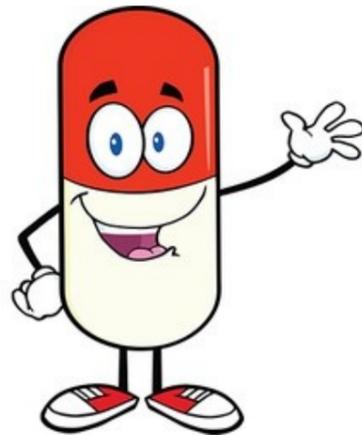
New Antibiotic Test

Through out the world there is increasing concern about the use of antibiotics and unfortunately vets and farmers are often pointed out as large users of these drugs.

A new test has been developed for dairy farmers treating mastitis.

The test identifies which antibiotics are most effective against the two most common causes of mastitis (Strep. Uberus and Staph. Aureus). This test is specific to the farm tested and can be used to compare your bacteria to similar bacteria throughout the country. Not only does

this help identify the very best treatment for your mastitis on farm but it will hopefully show that antibiotic usage in farming has minimal impact on the development of antibiotic resistance.



"He's faking it to get out of school. Bring in his teacher and run some tests."

Lazy student.

Two weeks prior to their exams a university student was starting to stress about studying. They went to the campus books store and asked the shop assistant for the best textbook they had, they needed all the help they could get. The assistant replied "this one is great, it does half the job for you". The student replied "fantastic! I'll take two".

Phosphate Supplementation

With the increased popularity in fodder beet feeding there is continuing concern about low phosphate levels in cows at calving time. Fodder beet is rather low in phosphate meaning a cow grazing this crop over winter can deplete their reserves and end up with low blood phosphate at calving. It is also important to remember that brassicas can also cause low phosphate, as can grass when grown on a property with a low Olsen P test.

Phosphate is stored in the body along with calcium in the form of bone. This means that calcium and phosphate levels are tied together and the body has to adjust the levels of both together. This means if the

body's phosphate levels remain unchanged the body can have difficulty maintaining the levels of both. In extreme cases this can deform the bones of its unborn calf, more commonly it causes downer cows at calving.

Phosphate is most commonly supplemented over winter using DCP (dicalcium phosphate) in either the form of powder dusted on baleage or in lick blocks. It is important to ensure enough is being supplied, this means the recommended number of lick blocks needs to be provided, this is usually a large number of blocks.

A simpler solution is to provide sodium phosphate

in the water. This requires a drop and calcium levels remain unchanged the is available then this would be the best recommendation.

At calving time there are a few different treatments to treat down cows with low phosphate. Richtafort is an injection which can be given in the muscle and has a long action. Fleet enemas can be given in the vein and give a big, short lasting hit of phosphate, both of these should be used in conjunction with a calcium/magnesium treatment for milk fever. Finally a new product, Calform Phosphorus is on the market that is given as a drench. This supplies a very effective dose of phosphate, magnesium and calcium.



Too Much Mag?

With magnesium more isn't always better. When dosing cows with more than 60g/cow/day of both MgCl and MgO this causes the action of calcium to be partially blocked. If very high amounts of magnesium are given this will cause milk fever in large numbers of cows. If in doubt call and ask us about dose rates.

Bloat in Lambs

With lamb prices at a relatively high level it is likely that many sheep farmers and possibly the occasional dairy farmer will be looking to rear orphan lambs. This is a great idea and lambs are fairly tough little critters however most lamb rearers will have seen abomasal bloat kill lambs, always when they have had \$30-40 of milk powder invested in them.

Abomasal bloat is caused by soil bacteria breaking down lactose in the milk. It requires soil ingestion and rapid, large volume feeds to occur. As calf milk replacer contains more lactose than lamb milk replacer it is best to avoid calf versions. Generally avoiding bloat is done by avoiding gorging. Feeding small volumes often is the name of the game but also feeding cold milk (once over 14 days old) and having smaller holes in the teats. There is also evidence that giving the lambs an iron injection can reduce their soil intake and thus reduce abomasal bloat. Yoghurtising milk is also an option however this is less practical when feeding powdered milk. Whey based milk replacers appear to have a reduced tendency to produce bloat. If you have questions about this disease please call the friendly Vetco team.