



The Twisted Uterus

It all began nine months before,
the AI tech came to settle a score.

The cow stood in the bail,
the tech fiddled below her tail.

Then a pregnancy was created once more.

The winter months flew by without trouble.
Her udder sprung up, she's gonna calve, on the double!

The calf kicked too much,
it lacked a soft touch,
it did a flip and twisted its bubble.

The cow now she pushes and strains,
she gets tired and lies down in a drain.

The calf won't come out.
She gets as dry as a drought.
She needs a farmer to cure her pain.

The farmer reaches up into her vagina.
She finds a blockage like the 'Great wall of China'

She rings up the vet,
who assures her not to fret.
They'll drive down to assist this old timer.

The uterus has twisted full circle.
She could push 'til her face coloured purple.

The twist keeps the calf in,
whether its single or twin.
The good news; the twist's not eternal!

The Vet ropes the cow to the ground,
grabs the wooden plank that the farmer has found.

She surfs the cow with the plank,
as its rolled flank to flank,
then reaches in to find the uterus unwound

There's a problem, the cervix is not dilated.
There's a requirement for more time to be waited.

It then opens up.
And with a huff and a puff.
A new life in this world is created.

More info:

A twisted uterus is a serious event that needs vet intervention. There is no clear cause as to why it twists but it needs to be untwisted before the calf can come out.

Sometimes a part of the calf can be grabbed and rotated which unwinds the uterus. Other times the cow must be rolled while the uterus is held in place. By a plank of wood over her belly or by the vets hand holding the calf via the cow's vagina.

Often if the uterus has twisted more than 180 degrees then the cervix will be closed.

Occasionally it will fail to open and a caesarean is required to salvage the calf and the cow.



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

Lice

This is a bit of a lousy article but these little critters are important none the less. Winter is their time to shine.

Firstly in sheep. Itchy, scratchy sheep. The wool on the fence lets you know how itchy they are. Dipping in autumn soon after

shearing will sort them out. If you find yourself behind the eight ball and it is September before you get around to it then best not to worry. Lice die off around this time anyway.

Dairy farmers often get worried in spring. Cows start losing their hair and

getting all scaly. This is usually just them losing their winter coat in preparation for the warm months ahead. Occasionally a fungal infection develops but these self cure.



- Numbers of ducks shot appear to be down this year. Lets hope that means more left to breed and make ducklings next season
- Winter is a time when arthritic dogs will suffer the most. If yours is starting to get a bit slow to get out of bed, consider coming in for a consult to assess your options

Inside this issue:

Lice	1
Training Heifers	1
BVD	2
Shelter	2
Fodder Beet	2
Colostrum	3
Twisted Uterus	4

First time in the shed.

One of the major sources of frustration at calving time is training heifers to use the shed.

All dairy farmers will have a strategy to train them. Some are undoubtedly more successful than others.

No matter your strategy something that will help is introducing the heifers to the shed environment before calving. This has to be in a low stress, non painful way i.e., not forced up the race to have needles jabbed into them.

Simply walking them through the yards is a good start. This can be furthered by standing them off in the yard for a period of time,

Food will always help ease tension. Some will go as far as feeding grain through their inshed feeder and put the heifers through the shed. Others might opt to feed a bale in the yard.

The aim of the game is to make the cow shed a happy place for the heifers to be. Oxytocin is the be all and end all when it comes to milk let down. If a heifer is not happy, the oxytocin won't release and she won't let down. Sure you can inject her with it but do this too many times and she won't bother doing it herself.

The other advantage that you get if you actually run the heifers through the

shed is that they will already know what the deal is when they come to milk for the first time.

If you are having to give your heifers more than two milkings worth of oxytocin it may be worth looking at your milking practices and shed set up to see why the heifers are not enjoying themselves. Once they have let down a few times it will become automatic when they get into the bail in the shed.



BVD

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea, known as BVD to its friends is a disease most dairy farmers will have heard of. For sheep farmers reading this it is very similar to Hairy Shaker Disease (border disease).

The main impact of BVD is on reproduction. It also has the potential to cause ill thrift and scours in calves and even diarrhea in cows occasionally.

How does it affect reproduction?

1. It causes abortions at any stage of pregnancy.
2. If infected at day 30-120 of pregnancy a PI calf may be born (more on this later)
3. It can cause birth defects if contracted between day 80-150 of pregnancy.

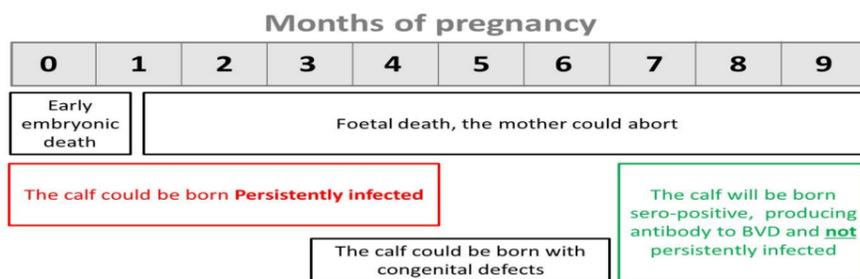
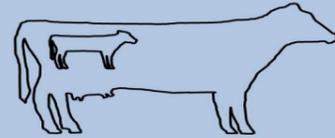
PI calves are calves that were still

developing their immune system when they were infected as a fetus. As a result they never fight off the infection and continue to spread the virus until they eventually die. This means PI animals are the main source of infection for other cows who can then have reproduction issues as listed above.

Testing your milk for BVD antigen allows you to reliably detect if a PI is milking into the vat but says nothing about animals not milking in the vat.

Any animals brought in should be tested in some form to eliminate the chance of introducing the infection to the herd. This is especially important for bulls. Ensure they are blood tested and vaccinated.

How old is the calf foetus?



Gimme Shelter

“Gimme, gimme shelter, Or I’m gonna fade away” The words of a rock star, a certain Mr Jagger but words that describe the predicament of many a cow at calving.

As more and more shelter belts disappear it is important to consider the requirements of a sick cow. These animals are often less capable of keeping warm, particularly with milk fever!

Be it a difficult calving or milk fever or mastitis or a uterine infection the difference between

staying warm and getting cold can be life or death.

Even if death doesn’t occur a cold cow will have a much slower recovery, be less resistant to infection and have a higher chance of being empty at the end of mating.

Shelter can come in many forms. The best is a shed that blocks the prevailing wind. Alternatives are trees, especially those with thick foliage to block the wind. Another very practical option is using cow covers.

Aside from sick cows calf survival

and health is increased if they are born into an environment with reduced wind and increased temperature.

When clearing shelter belts, maybe leave a tree or two.



Fodder Beet

Some of you may have been caught out by fodder beet this winter. It is important to take the lessons and remember them in the future. An accurate crop weight is a good start so you can correctly allocate feed. As is a long transition period to allow the rumen to adjust. Getting the cow chewing is the best way to prevent acidosis. Straw is the best chewing stimulant but hay and rough baleage are also good. I would suggest straw may be a good choice during transition but is too low in protein to maintain throughout winter. Don’t put them onto it when they’re hungry!

First day colostrum

Colostrum can be a part of calf rearing the vets will bang on about ad nauseam. There is however a very good reason for this and hopefully this article will shed light on it.

Colostrum transfer from mother to calf is absolutely the most important part of rearing a calf. You will find very few who argue otherwise.

Basically colostrum is a sample pack of the mothers immune system. It is jam packed full of antibodies the mother has made against all of the diseases she has seen in her life. Antibodies are the proteins produced by the body to destroy anything that shouldn’t be in the body.

In the first day of life the calf’s gut (or indeed any mammal) is different to how it will be for the rest

of that animals life. It has tiny, tiny holes in it. These holes allow the antibodies to squeeze through from the gut, into the blood. After the first day (strictly the first 6-8 hours) these holes rapidly close up preventing more antibody uptake.

Now lets turn our attention to the mother. For weeks prior to calving her body has been lovingly preparing this antibody soup in her udder. It is thick and its gloopy and its jam packed full of antibodies. This is her first day colostrum.

Once this first day colostrum is removed, she only has a few hours to make the next batch. The next batch is only a fraction of the quality. The quality of colostrum plummets rapidly until she is simply producing plain old white milk.

So the key points here are that a cows first day colostrum is by far the best quality and by far the most helpful to the calf. On the other side of the equation the calfs gut is only able to use the colostrum for the first day of life.

What does this mean? Your calves need first day colostrum on the first day of life! Any compromise to this very important system will massively compromise the calfs immune system in the first weeks of life.

Practically this means picking up calves regularly (ideally twice per day). And feeding them 2L of good quality first day colostrum (not pooled colostrum) as soon after pick up as possible.

Unfortunately dairy cows are often poor mothers and don’t allow their calves an adequate feed of colostrum. Hence the need for the farmer to feed them.

Side note

Some farmers opt to feed and record calves in the paddock in the morning and do a pick up in the afternoon or vice versa. This ensures minimum time between birth and colostrum intake.

Dog Vaccination Run 2016

We will again be running our dog vaccination run where we visit your property and vaccinate your dogs, puppies and cats in their own environment.

If you would like to be included please contact the Edendale Clinic. We will be completing these runs in your area the week of 25-29 July 2016.



Vetco’s Delivery Service

If you require product delivered 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

