

devoted vets

for your animal's life!



for your herd's health

12 Normanby St, Warragul, 3820 Phone: 5623 2525

Autumn 2017

Hi, there!

Many herds are about to start drying off, or are already doing so. So this newsletter focuses on getting this important phase of the lactation cycle right.

Drying off presents the best opportunity to treat existing subclinical mastitis. Also, critically, you want to prevent new infections at the start of the dry period because...

Drying off cows carries a high risk of mastitis!

The udder is acutely susceptible to new infections at drying off because:

- There is no flushing of the udder, so once the cow is dried off, any existing infections remain.
- Cell counts and protective chemicals within milk fall after drying off, so defences are at a low point.
- The teat canal is shorter, so again, the defence mechanisms are weakened.
- There is a delay in forming the plug in the teat canal. It's been found that up to 20% of cows haven't formed a teat plug *six weeks* after drying off!
- Lastly, if done poorly, infections can be introduced with the insertion of a dry cow tube.

This is how we measure success at drying off: fewer cases of mastitis in the dry period and at calving time, lower Individual Cow Cell Counts and BMCC, and no antibiotic violations, so yes, it's a job worth doing right!

So avoid this!



Great on-line video resource

One of the challenges facing especially large herds is getting the whole team onboard, following best practice.

Drying off properly is a time consuming and frustrating task, yet as we've identified, it's important it's done well.

Dairy Australia have developed a short 4 minute video to demonstrate the correct technique to dry off cows.

You might pick up a tip or two, but if other people are also involved in drying off, getting the whole team onboard AND doing it right can make it a lot easier for you, and set you up for a successful dry period and calving time.

Hop on-line and go to <http://www.dairyaustralia.com.au/Animal-management/Mastitis/Countdown-resources-and-tools-2/Countdown-shed-guides-and-videos.aspx>

Or you can go to our website at www.devotedvets.com.au and find the link in our newsletter section. Easier!

The drying-off edition

Why is drying off a high risk time?

Video resource for your milking teams

Selective or blanket treatment—the right questions to ask!

Get your free drying off consult!

Introducing Dr Ben Rhodes

Selective or Blanket Dry Cow Treatment—which one is right for me?

We often get asked this question.

If you have less than 3 Individual Cow Cell Counts (ICCCs) for each cow, then use Blanket Treatment.

And one good question often begs for more questions!

If you can answer NO to each one of these 6 questions, use selective treatment. If you answer YES to any one of these questions, use Blanket treatment:

- Do more than 30% of your herd have peak ICCCs above 250,000?
- Is your herd average BMCC for the last 6 months above 250,000 cells/ml.
- Did you have more than 5 clinical cases per 100 cows in the first month of lactation.
- Did you have more than an average of two clinical cases per 100 cows per month after the first month of lactation?
- Did you have more than an average of two clinical cases per 100 cows per month in either of the last two months of lactation?
- Do your milk cultures indicate the presence of Strep agalactiae or significant numbers of Strep uberis?

If using Blanket Dry Cow Treatment, treat all quarters of all cows.

If using Selective Dry Cow Treatment, treat all quarters of cows with any ICCC above 250,000 cells/ml during the lactation, and cows that have had a clinical case during the lactation.

Teat Sealants can be used as a stand alone treatment in cows with an ICCC below 250,000 cells/ml.

Ask us for more details.

Avoid getting antibiotics in your Bulk Milk at calving time

A key reason for getting antibiotics in Bulk Milk at calving time is treating cows with dry cow antibiotics when they are producing less than 5 litres a day at drying off.

In these cows, the antibiotic tends to remain in the lower sections of the udder, failing to penetrate the upper glandular areas (where we want it). It can remain there in high concentrations until calving time and beyond, causing antibiotic violations. **So dry your cows off before they drop to 5 litres.**

Get your free dry cow consult

Drying cows off is more than just applying an antibiotic. We are currently offering a free dry cow consult. Book a consult at the clinic with Rod. Get a detailed analysis of your strategies, and set your cows up for a successful new lactation!

Our new vet: Ben Rhodes

Devoted Vets is growing, and our newest team member is Dr Ben Rhodes. Ben comes from Townsville, and graduated from James Cook University, so Warragul is a far cry from home in the sunny North. Ben has impressed us with his enthusiasm, ability and compassion, and is already a valued member of the team.

Welcome Ben!

Devoted vets...



fast response, experience, great value!

**devoted
vets**

for your animal's life!

Phone: 03-5623 2525 Fax: 03-5623 2892

Email: info@devotedvets.com.au Website: www.devotedvets.com.au

Clinic Hours

Monday and Thursday: 8am to 7 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8am to 5pm

Saturday: 9am to 12 noon