

Single dose to solve hidden problem

A largely hidden problem in calves is costing farmers long after the crisis has passed.

Coccidia is a microscopic parasite affecting calves up to nine months of age and is often underestimated and under-diagnosed, according to Veterinary Products brand manager Danielle Bax which markets Baycox C.

It's the first product of its type registered in New Zealand and contains the active ingredient Toltrazuril, which kills all intracellular stages of coccidiosis with a single dose while still allowing calves to develop immunity to the disease.

Raising calves in the same paddocks or barns every year increases the frequency and severity of infection, which occurs when animals take in contaminated feed or water, usually around six to eight weeks of age.

But clinical cases, which have obvious signs like bloody diarrhoea, also called cocci red flag, are just the tip of the iceberg because only five percent of infected calves

show clinical signs.

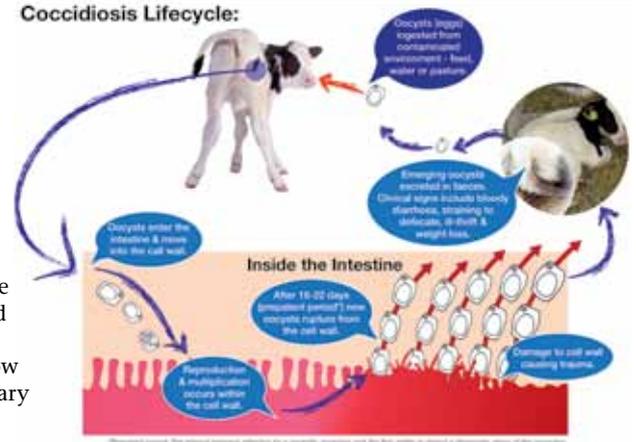
It's estimated sub-clinical disease affects up to 95 percent of infected calves, resulting in poor feed efficiency, reduced feed intake, slow weight gain (ill-thrift) and secondary bacterial infections, leading to greater economic losses.

After ingestion the parasites invade the calf's intestine, then after 16-22 days the new parasites erupt out of the cell walls causing damage. Blood and oocysts (or eggs) are then passed in the host faeces. After shedding oocysts re-infection can occur until immunity has developed.

If there's a known history of coccidiosis on a farm then treatment before clinical symptoms appear will prevent the disease occurring.

Calves are usually fed meal containing a coccidiostat before being weaned on to pasture, preventing infection. But "naïve" calves are still susceptible when meal intake is reduced so will show symptoms

Coccidiosis Lifecycle:



of coccidiosis two to four weeks after being put onto pasture. Preventive treatment a week after meal withdrawal prevents the intestinal damage as a result of infection while the animal builds up immunity.

Treating with Toltrazuril does not stop natural ability to build up immunity against coccidiosis.

"Preventive treatment of coccidiosis with Baycox C at the right time will stop cocci and its effects in its tracks and protect high value replacements," Bax said.

The withholding period for meat is 56 days. Baycox C is available only from vets.

For further information visit www.bayer.co.nz

Snuff out tractor fires

A campaign to alert farmers to the risk of tractor fires has been launched by rural insurer Farmers Mutual Group and endorsed by the National Rural Fire Authority.

In the last few years Farmers Mutual Group (FMG), which insures more than 20,000 tractors for more than 12,000 customers, has counted more than 500 claims worth over \$7.5m for tractor fires.

FMG assessor Mark Ashby said farmers

should check for nests under the bonnet before every tractor use and store it lifted. Servicing and maintaining tractors regularly would keep engine components clear of dust and debris.

It recommends fitting a fire extinguisher to every tractor and to avoid accelerating the fire, poking the nozzle of the extinguisher into a gap alongside the engine bay and expel, rather than lifting the bonnet.

Ashby recently attended a loss where the tractor caught fire and hay bales, covered yards and a woolshed were also damaged.

"That's why prevention is so important - it's much simpler than dealing with the fallout from a fire that gets out of control."

For further information phone FMG on 0800 366 466 or visit www.fmg.co.nz or watch the new tractor fire video www.youtube.com and search for FMG Tractor Fire.

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