Programme

Wednesday 19 June

8.30am: Welcome

8.45am: Vets of the future - Jon Huxley

9.30am: Defining world leading animal care - Helen Thoday
To move toward the Dairy Tomorrow sector strategy to be world leading in animal care, we must first define what world leading is. To ensure the definition was credible and inclusive we engaged with farmers, the public, and animal welfare scientists to incorporate the views of each of these groups. In this presentation we will share the final definition and the areas of similarity and challenge highlighting where veterinarians fit in this picture.

9.45am: Vets socialising animal welfare - Katie Saunders
DairyNZ has put together a workshop for veterinarians (and other rural professionals) to discuss the concept of positive welfare and how we can start to look for opportunities for positive welfare on New Zealand dairy farms. This presentation will draw out the main features from the workshop that bring positive welfare to life and make socialising the concept easier.

10am: ERS: Working together to support at-risk dairy animals and farmers - Bruce Eyers
DairyNZ’s Early Response Service (ERS) supports farmers whenever concerns are raised about the wellbeing of dairy animals. The confidential service operates nationwide through regionally-based animal care specialists supported by the dairy companies, and has successfully supported farmers to manage their animals in difficult circumstances. We will explain the ERS process and how veterinarians contribute to the success of the service, and discuss the mechanisms that have evolved to protect the integrity of client relationships.

10.15am: Working together to improve welfare of cows on crop - Helen Thoday
It is becoming more common to have multiple deaths due to mismanagement of crop feeding. The veterinarian is often the only person outside the farm team to know and be involved in these incidents. What is the role of the veterinarian when it comes to bringing the mismanagement to the attention of the person in charge and what can DairyNZ do to help.

10.30am: Morning tea

11am: Skills for success - Fiona Couchman

12pm: Lameness and epidemiology: a match made in heaven - Winston Mason
Recorded lameness data for an 800 cow dairy farm in the Waikato region identified that animals over 7 years of age had a 7x increased odds of becoming lame compared to 2-3 year olds, repeat cases within and between seasons were very high, and there was a peak hazard of lameness in mid-late lactation. This pattern enabled a sound argument to be given to the farmer that the suboptimal treatment and overgrowth of the hooves had resulted in permanent changes in the pedal bones of affected animals, and highlighted the importance of prompt and appropriate treatment of lame cattle. This presentation has been published in the NZVJ, and is an example of how recording lame cows, analysing and presenting the findings back to the farmer can be another approach to improving lame cow management.

12.30pm: Leptosure clinic experience - Adrian Evans
Our practice uses Leptosure extensively. While we are by no means perfect, we believe that creating awareness around lepto risks trumps all other approaches.

12.45pm: Leptosure launch - Steve Cranefield

1pm: Lunch
2pm: Controlling MAP infection on a New Zealand pastoral dairy farm - Andrew Bates
Johnes’ disease is a major production limiting disease caused by infection with Mycobacterium avium subsp. paratuberculosis (MAP). The disease is chronic, progressive, contagious and widespread with no treatment or cure. Control involves removing animals shedding bacteria and protecting calves from infection. Combining a novel test to remove infected cows with protection of vulnerable calves, this study reports the reduction over four-years in seroprevalence of cows positive to MAP in a New Zealand pastoral dairy herd.

2.30pm: Herd screening for Johne’s disease: is effluent the answer? - Shona Pryor
Identification of a reliable indicator of Johne’s disease (JD) at a herd-level would be beneficial to monitor levels of infection or identify at-risk herds. This presentation will describe farm trial results collected over two seasons where a real-time PCR test was used to monitor Mycobacterium avium subsp. paratuberculosis in effluent as an indicator of JD in the herd. Trial results will be presented along with practicalities of effluent testing versus alternative herd-level screening options.

3pm: The environmental and human health impacts of dairy intensification: a case study - Canterbury - Mike Joy

3.30pm: Afternoon tea

4pm: Salmonella Brandenburg on Canterbury Dairy Farms - Sean Daly
During the spring of 2016, MSD Animal Health’s technical team became aware of increased reports of abortion and first-calving heifer losses due to S. Brandenburg around Ashburton. This was backed up by reports from local laboratories that since 2015 they were seeing more cases in cattle rather than sheep. In the winter and spring of 2017 reports of S. Brandenburg abortion outbreaks continued. In light of these reports MSD undertook a survey, designed in conjunction with VetEnt Research, of affected properties with a case definition published in the NZVJ in November 2017.

4.30pm: Trends from 11 years of bulk tank milk BVD testing - Andrew Weir
Eltham Vets started doing bulk tank BVD testing in 2007 as part of Andrew’s PhD work, before commercial testing was even available. We therefore have the longest running bulk tank testing series in New Zealand. This presentation looks at cross-sectional and longitudinal patterns of bulk tank PCR and bulk tank antibody levels over the 11 years to give insights and interesting examples relevant to dairy vets.

5pm: TIBR prevalence in South Island dairy herds - Ivan Holloway
The presentation involves two studies. The first is a look at the sero-prevalence of IBR of IBR in dairy herds from Mid Canterbury and North Otago. This study raised the suspicion that heifers are possibly largely naive entering the herd and become infected at calving. The second study from Southland looks at this question by testing heifers before and after calving and comparing their seroconversion to IBR.

5.30pm: Happy hour

Thursday 20 June

8.30am: Selection for DCT using the Rapid Mastitis Test - Scott McDougall
The objective of this study was to assess the use of RMT versus SCC to select for DCT. All quarters of all cows were treated with an internal teat sealant, and half the cows were treated with DCT if the SCC was >200,000 cells/ml, while the others were DCT infused in quarters where the RMT score was >trace. RMT-based treatment increased antimicrobial use, but bacteriological cure rates and prevalence of infection at calving were similar between groups.

8.45am: Selective and deferred treatment of clinical mastitis - Andrew Bates
Mastitis is the most frequent reason for antibiotic use in New Zealand dairy cattle. Treatment deferment pending pathogen diagnosis and antibiotic susceptibility facilitates targeted treatment, but it is vital both short and long term clinical health outcomes are not compromised. This study used the Mastaplex system to look at the clinical and ISCC outcomes following treatment deferment in 6,500 cows on 7 commercial NZ dairy farms.

9am: Detection of Staphylococcus aureus using herd test milk samples - Rosemary Thresher
The presentation will describe the use of a real time PCR test optimised in the LIC Animal Health lab to detect Staphylococcus aureus bacteria in Herd Test milk samples; this includes a description of the validation trials carried out to compare this approach against on-farm aseptic quarter foremilk sampling and bacteriology as the available gold standard.

9.15am: Update of the MIC’s for the Dairy Antibiogram - Scott McDougall
In mid-2018 four new antimicrobials (cefurozime, lincomycin, neomycin and oxytetracycline) were added to testing of Staphylococcus aureus and Streptococcus uberis from bulk tank milk. Clear bimodal distributions (indicative of potential emergence of resistance) were present for cefuroxime, lincomycin and oxytetracycline amongst the S. uberis isolates. As expected the MIC of neomycin for S. uberis was high (>16µg/ml). No bimodal distributions for these four antimicrobials were detected amongst these S. aureus isolates.
9.30am: Prototheca mastitis – Canterbury farm outbreak, diagnosis and control - Megan Loach
Prototheca is an algal organism which is both a contagious and environmental pathogen causing bovine mastitis. Usually only sporadic individual cases are seen, however this presentation reviews one of just a handful of herd outbreaks reported in New Zealand. In this case, 34% of a large Canterbury dairy herd tested positive; the only options for control are separation and culling as currently there is no effective treatment available.

9.45am: Vet’s experience with internal teats sealant-alone administered to dairy cows - Scott McDougall
A survey was undertaken of DCV members to quantify morbidity and/or mortality associated with mastitis over the dry period following use of teat sealant’s alone and to define potential risk factors. There was wide variation amongst practices in morbidity and mortality. Lack of training, poor hygiene, and inappropriate herd selection were identified as potential risk factors.

10am: Countdown MQ: a new approach to improving milk quality - Mark Humphris
Countdown MQ is Dairy Australia’s new training program that brings together mixed professional groups to build their capability in mastitis, milk quality and safety. Learning objectives have been developed and now guide farmer focussed outcomes. Using an online learning platform with readings, quizzes, and videos have optimised face to face learning times. A focus on consultation techniques and communication using motivational interviewing techniques have also been incorporated to improve practice change on farms.

10.30am: Morning tea

11am: InCalf into the future - Samantha Tennant
The need to improve herd reproductive performance is a high priority for New Zealand’s dairy farmers. DairyNZ will provide an update of the InCalf programme including the recent changes to the Fertility Focus Report and other programme resources. As well as an introduction to the National Reproduction Strategy Group; who are they and what is their strategy.

11.30am: What do farmers and vets really think about treatments for NCC? - Emma Cuttance
In the first few months of 2019, a survey was completed with farmers and veterinarians about their attitudes and beliefs about hormonal intervention of non-cycling cows. The questions are aimed and finding the true hurdles for why farmers are resistant to intervention and whether those similar hurdles are actually present among the vets.

12pm: Effect of a second treatment of prostaglandin during the Ovsynch program on fixed-time artificial insemination conception rates and luteolysis in split-calving, pasture-fed dairy cows - Joanna Rheinberger
The object of this research project was to compare fixed time artificial insemination (FTAI) conception rates and serum progesterone concentrations at the time of FTAI for cows treated with the original Ovsynch program with the same measures for cows receiving a modification of the Ovsynch program that involved a second injection of PG on day 8.

12.30pm: Increasing conception rate in non-cyclers with a novel treatment programme - Scott McDougall
The conception rate of anoestrus cows is low, and it is hypothesised that some cows fail to undergo luteolysis following a single prostaglandin F2 alpha (PG) injection. First service conception rate was significantly increased following addition of a second PG injection 24 hours after the first, in a large field study.

12.45pm: VPIS update - Mark Gilmour
Update on indemnity insurance from a VPIS perspective using case studies.

1pm: Lunch

2pm: Dairy heifer live weight and growth effects on reproduction - Rhiannon Handcock
This presentation covers the effects of pre-calving live weight and growth pattern (from three to 21 months of age) of dairy heifers on survival and reproduction in first, second and third lactation. Is there such a thing as too heavy? Or is bigger always better?

2.30pm: Feeding zeolite to improve transition cow health - Claire Phyn
The latest research into transition cow management to improve cow health and fertility from the “Pillars of a New Dairy System” programme will be presented. The focus will be on feeding synthetic zeolite pre-calving to prevent hypocalcaemia.

3pm: Heifer mating case study - Kristen Baxter & Luke Smyth

3.30pm: Afternoon tea

4pm: Age at puberty is predictive of cow fertility - Chris Burke
An update of our research funded through a partnership with MBIE and DairyNZ Inc. (the “Pillars” programme) to develop new solutions for improving cow fertility will be presented. The focus will be on recent results from the Fertility Research Herd and progress with a large-scale study aimed at verifying the potential for puberty to be included as a predictor trait in genetic merit of cow fertility.
4.30pm: Farmer insight from a ‘drop of milk’ - Stefan Bright
It has been widely reported that the national cow numbers have peaked, so it’s extremely important for farmers to recognise that if they aren’t milking more cows they need to be milking better cows that are healthy. A simple herd testing sample can provide valuable insights into the performance and health of those cows. Livestock Improvement Corp. (LIC) believe that by working with the veterinary fraternity farmers can gain more insight about their animals and make better decisions on farm.

5pm: DCV AGM
7pm: Dinner - Prime Restaurant

Friday 21 June

10am: Mycoplasma bovis presentation and management in Australia dairy herds - Mark Humphris
Mycoplasma bovis was first detected in Australian dairy cattle in 1970 and has been diagnosed in every dairying region. Research funded by Dairy Australia completed by University of Sydney has provided greater understanding in the presentation and management of Mycoplasma bovis. With increasing average herd size and changes to dairy business ownership there is an ongoing need for vigilance to reduce risk of Mycoplasma bovis entry and impact on dairy farms.

10.30am NZ update on Mycoplasma bovis - Amy Burroughs, Kate Sawford, Grant Matthews & Mary van Andel

11.15am: On-farm biosecurity: Risk practices and behaviours - John O’Connell
Farm level biosecurity relates to measures required to prevent the likelihood of entry of diseases or minimise their impact. Responsibility for implementing these measures rests with the farmer. Recent investigations have shown that farmers may underestimate or not even consider the risk posed by certain practices. We need to be aware of practices and understand behaviours that can compromise on-farm and inter-farm biosecurity.

11.30am: A veterinary practices experience with Mycoplasma bovis - Matthew O’Sullivan & Kevin Kearney
In July 2017 our clients found themselves in the midst of the discovery of an exotic disease. We will share a veterinary practices journey that has been Mycoplasma bovis; covering the farming community response, the clinicians role and an outbreak of clinical mastitis.

12pm: Lunch

1pm: Can injectable trace elements increase immune response in dairy calves? - Andrew Bates
Recent NZ work suggests that neo-natal injection of a trace mineral supplement (TMS) containing copper, selenium, manganese, zinc and chromium can reduce morbidity and mortality on NZ dairy farms in the first 140 days of life. In this follow up study, neutrophil and monocyte phagocytic function, gamma interferon response and antibody response to vaccination were compared between neonatal calves receiving TMS and a control group.

1.30pm: Help your clients level up their calf care - Katherine DeWitt
To help farmers level up their calf care, DairyNZ has developed a new tool that includes questions on key elements of calf rearing that have lasting impacts. When they complete the tool, farmers will receive information on where their calf care system excels and also recommendations for improvements. This presentation will share key findings from the first months of the scorecard and how you can support your clients to improve the wellbeing of their calves.

2pm: Analgesia in cattle - Jon Huxley

2.30pm: A topical pain relief for calves following disbudding - Emma Cuttance
We need to do more to alleviate pain during and after disbudding yet we constantly are faced with the hurdle of the expense of providing gold standard. This large trial investigated the use of a topical anaesthetic applied after disbudding with a cornual nerve block in sedated and un-sedated calves and the results are well worth the wait.