

NZVA position on DCT

The NZVA believes that antimicrobials must continue to be available for appropriate therapeutic and welfare choices in the future. Good stewardship of these products, including reduction, refinement and replacement of use, is a critical component of any strategy to ensure antimicrobials are used only when indicated.

In keeping with this, the NZVA announced the following aspirational goal in July 2015:

By 2030, NZ Inc. will not need antibiotics for the maintenance of the health and welfare of animals.

There has been significant pressure on dairy farmers and veterinarians to carefully consider the role of dry cow therapy (DCT) in the prevention of new intramammary infections in dairy cows during the dry period. Most recently in the UK for example, it has been proposed that DCT should be prescribed only for those cows in which its use is justified (Biggs *et al*, 2016).

The NZVA recognises that the use of DCT in non-infected cows is no longer appropriate in an era of effective alternatives such as internal teat sealants (ITS) and improved management practices.

The NZVA, in consultation with the Society of Dairy Cattle Veterinarians (DCV) and Antimicrobial Resistance Leadership Group (AMRLG) proposes that:

By 2020, DCT (Dry Cow Therapy) will only be used in the treatment of existing intramammary infections.

The NZVA and DCV are committed to working with industry partners to develop the significant programme of work required to support this goal through education, surveillance, research, development and innovation.