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## Vet Perspective – Dairy Expo Matamata 2026

### Seminar on Wearables

#### The Reality on Farm

“As a vet, I’ve been in situations where I’m trying to treat a lame cow and I’m nearly breaking my arms in the process. One bad knock and I could be out for the rest of the season.

That doesn’t just affect me — it affects every farmer I’m booked to look after!”

“Back in the day, the attitude was often ‘just harden up.’ You’d jump in, get underneath, wrestle the job done. But that’s not the reality anymore.

We can’t afford to be heroes. Lives are too short, and the season’s too important. We’ve got to look after ourselves as much as the animals.”

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#### Why Infrastructure Matters

“Good animal handling facilities aren’t a luxury anymore — they’re essential infrastructure.

From a vet’s perspective, when cows are properly restrained and positioned:

- The job gets done faster
- The animal experiences less stress
- The farmer is safer
- And I can move on to the next farm in one piece

It’s a win for everyone.”

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## The Solution – Wearable Infrastructure by TechniPharm

“What we’re seeing now with wearables and collars becoming standard, is that traditional yards and races weren’t designed for this type of work.

So what have we changed to ensure handling systems for the tasks ahead are suitable to purpose?

We’ve added an automated neck extension system to existing handling systems. The neck is gently pushed forward, giving about **300mm of safe operational space**, while the head and neck remain securely controlled.

In practical terms:

- One person can bring the cow in
- Remote hydraulic control manages positioning
- The operator’s hands are free
- A collar can be fitted in under a minute

And it’s not just collars.

The same setup makes:

- Blood sampling
- Vaccinating
- Tagging
- Drenching
- Hoof care

all significantly safer and more efficient.”

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## What Farmers Are Asking

“The biggest question I’m hearing at the moment is:

**‘What should I be investing in?’**

Farmers know change is happening. Wearables are here. Labour is tight. Health & safety expectations are higher.

The smart question isn’t whether to upgrade infrastructure — it’s *how to future-proof it.*”

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## Closing Line from the Dairy Expo



“From a vet’s point of view, the farms that invest in safe, smart handling systems aren’t just protecting their cows — they’re protecting themselves, their staff, and their season, their vets and with that their fellow farmers ”

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