



## Booking In a Pregnancy Testing Date

Everyone is now fully aware of the tremendous benefits of doing an early aged pregnancy testing - these include;

- Providing information for strategic dry off dates
- Aiding in early culling decisions for destocking in the Autumn
- Formation of wintering groups for tailored feeding
- Feed budgeting for the winter period and early lactation
- Efficiency in time and transport logistics of cows from run-off back to milking platform
- Detailed reproductive analysis to help guide where continued future improvements may be made
- Bench marking against the rest of the district.
- Improving the saleability of a herd
- Identification of cows which have received multiple inseminations but conceived to the first mating.
- Ranking cows for culling
- Accurately identifying cows which conceived in the early bull mating period
- Provision of detailed supportive material for possible induction dispensation requests

To provide this information accurately cows should be pregnancy tested 12-15 weeks after the PSM date. For a herd which started mating on the 23rd of October this would be between the 15th of January and the 5th of February. The accuracy when dating pregnancies beyond 15 weeks starts to diminish. Herds should have had bulls removed for at least 40 days before an empty diagnosis can be confidently made.

For herds which are limiting their mating period to strictly 10 weeks it would be possible to do a singular test at 15-15.5 weeks after the PSM. The

reality however is that it would not be possible to get all herds tested in the district within this very tight time frame. We ask therefore that farms stick with the existing program of testing between 12-15 weeks after the PSM. Cows identified as rechecks can then be simply drafted out for retesting 40 plus days after bull removal.



## Christmas Promotion



### With qualifying purchases of

- Arrest C 20L
  - Matrix Minidose 10L
  - Eclipse pour-on 2.5L, 5L  
(excludes Eclipse pour on bonus 10% 5.5L)
  - Eprinex 5L, 20L, 25L
  - Genesis pour on 5L, 10L
  - Cydectin pour on 5L, 15 L
- you receive a tasty Ham on the bone or Crozier Turkey. (While stocks last).

**OR FORGET THE HAM OR TURKEY AND DEDUCT \$30 OFF THE PURCHASE PRICE**

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## Zoetis Teatseal Milk Quality Awards

This season we will be seeking the lowest average Bulk Milk Somatic Cell Count, up to Monday 3rd of December 2018. (For farmers signed onto Infonet, and supplying Fonterra and Oceania, there is automatic access to this information.) Winners of these awards for the lowest average BMSCC will be announced in the January Mooznews



## Merry Christmas from the Veterinary Centre administration staff . . .



## When lame cows get out of control

We are visiting a few farms at the moment where lame cow numbers have got out of control. The smart money is on picking up a foot ASAP and correcting any lesions before they get too bad. If lame cows are left they're likely to eat less, produce less milk, have lower repro rates, and ultimately have a greater risk of being culled.

On some farms, however, we are seeing lame cow mobs of 30-100 + cows. By this stage farmers are struggling with time, and the problem often seems insurmountable. Human nature takes over, and so these cows are often left in a close paddock under the "wait and see" treatment regime, rather than being picked up and treated. If you are in this boat, or want to avoid getting there then we have three options to help;

■ **Staff Training** - We can come out and teach your staff members about how to treat lame cows. This can help spread the workload across more people on farm.

■ **Vets to Treat** - We can send out a team of vets (if available) to treat enough cows to get the mob down to a manageable level. To enable multiple vets to work at a time these animals would need to be treated on the platform/herringbone (rather than a race). Budget on a treatment rate of around 4-6 cows per hour (per vet).

■ **Healthy-Hoof Lame Cow Prevention Training** - Andrew, Luke, and Ryan are all trained Healthy Hoof providers and can come out on farm to teach staff about how their actions (i.e gate use, animal handling) can increase or decrease lameness. We have had some amazing results on farms following these courses, with

dramatic reductions in lameness just from a change in staff attitude and knowledge around cow handling. A more in-depth package is also available looking at diagnosing track and shed issues that are having an influence.

The hidden costs of lameness can quickly mount up, and only get worse the longer they are left. Traditionally we've used an industry figure of around \$200 per lame cow. However DairyNZ recently proposed a figure of \$500 if you have to start taking cows out of the vat. If you think your lameness issues may be spiraling out of control then give one of our vets a call and we can work out how we can best help you get back on top of the situation.



It's that time of the year again when we need to start thinking about Leptospirosis control on your farm. Many of our clients are now part of The Veterinary Centre 'Leptocred' programme.

It is vital for the dairy industry that we continue to have a robust programme that strengthens Leptospirosis protection and at the same time allows you flexibility with vaccine use. The annual reaccreditation consult is an essential part of this process. It is also a pertinent time to take a step back and look at leptospirosis management on your farm and throughout the dairy industry.

We require all existing Leptocred officers to make a time to sit down with one of our vets for their 2018 audit, reaccreditation for 2019. We'd like to get these consults completed before Christmas as once we reach Jan/Feb our workload increases significantly with early pregnancy testing.

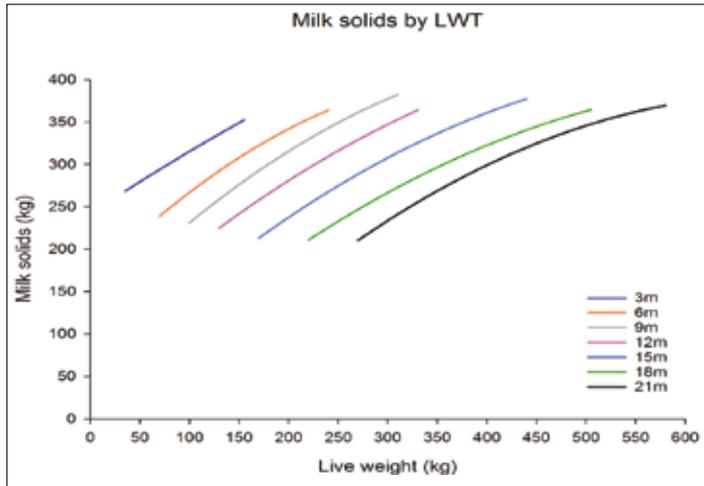


Ryan Luckman BSc



# Weaning weights – Starting them early

Recent work from Massey University has highlighted the importance of calf growth weights around the weaning period. The study, using 190,000 data points showed a direct relationship between calf weights at 3 months of age, and their production in first lactation (the blue line in the graph below).



As part of our Growsmart package we have been weighing calves pre-weaning for a number of clients. The weights have been quite revealing, showing us that trusting the much loved eye-ometer isn't always the best strategy. We have been able to use the weights data in two ways;

### 1. Weaning Decisions

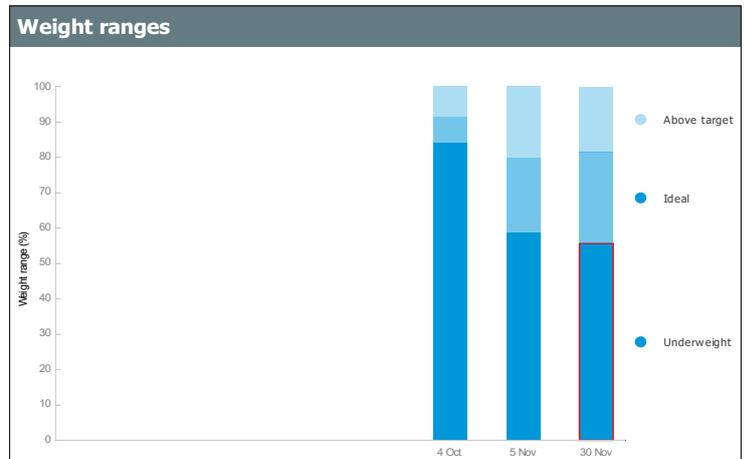
In an ideal world a calf would be weaned when it is;

- Eating 1kg/day of meal or 2kg/day of pasture
- At target weight - 70kg for Jerseys, 80kg for Crossbreds, and 90kg for Friesians
- Growing at around 0.8kg per day

By weighing calves and putting them into MINDA Weights we can accurately determine which calves are ready for weaning, and set the calves up with their best possible start.

### 2. Early Warning System

Our case example below has fallen into the category where the data has shown that during the recent stretch of wet weather the growth rates have reduced, and the calves are now starting to fall behind target weights (after a flying start).



Visually the calves still look okay, and it is likely that without weights we wouldn't be aware of this early change. However, by having the data the farm is in a position to make some decisions in order to remedy the situation. Offering extra supplement, prioritising extra calf paddocks with more grass from the platform, an early exit to the run-off, and later weaning strategies are all being considered.

Don't leave your calves' future to chance! If you'd like some help setting up a weighing programme on your farm then get in touch with one of our vets to discuss Growsmart.

# BVD Bulletin

The bulk milk BVD results have come in over the spring period and we continue to see a decrease in the number of herds that are positive for virus. This season there have been 17 herds found with virus out of 196 sheds tested. This gives a prevalence of 8.7%. This time last year the percentage of infected sheds was 12.9%. When you look back at the numbers from 4 seasons ago it is a huge change. It is great for the district to see a continual drop in the level of

BVD infection as it is a scourge that decreases the economic output of farms.

It is important not to get complacent about BVD either with the decreasing level. There is still potential for herds to get re-

infected especially through young stock. Are heifers being run with stock from other farms, or does the grazier have their own stock. If this is the case make sure that those heifers are protected through vaccination and or testing.

Season	Number of PI herd	Number of sheds tested	Prevalence of PI herds
2018-2019	17	196	8.7%
2017-2018	23	179	12.9%
2014-2015	39	144	27.1%



# Uddernews



This must have been the wettest November in memory if not ever. There are large mobs of lame cows around now and the teat skin condition of many teats is going to get worse. In a perfect world the teat skin on all teats would be soft and supple. The reality is at the moment, teats are getting dirty and the skin is drying out and getting cracked. The more cracks in the skin the more places for bugs to hide and the harder it is for the teat spray to sanitise the teats, and organic matter (mud and feces) also reduces the effectiveness of the teat spray even if it does get into the cracks. If possible try to avoid the worst of the mud, and keep the underpasses free of water before they get used. What is controllable is whether the teat spray is getting onto the teats, so check

the hand held sprayers are working well, so that the milkers can do a good job, or if you have an automatic system check to see the spray is still getting the teats. Secondly check to see the mix you think you are using is what is getting made up and consider adding extra emollient until the teatskin returns to healthy/normal. Do not exceed 15% emollient in your mix as it

will not go through your system very well.



## 'Phantom Cows'

With the adverse weather conditions in the second round of AI, many farmers are concerned about the high non-return rates (lack of returns.) Consider pregnancy testing non-returning cows, 35 plus days after insemination to identify and treat phantom cows.

## Timely reminders

- Regular drenching programme - including choice of combination drench and drenching interval.
- Vaccinations - Covexin 10 booster/ Multiline 5 in 1.
- Use of selenium and copper supplementation.
- **REGULAR WEIGHING!!!**
- Pink eye - pink eye season is coming up. A single dose of Piliguard 3-6 weeks before the risk period will reduce the risk of an outbreak
- Polioencephalomalacia (PEM, B1 deficiency) - also commonly seen over the summer months. Calves may appear blind and staggery before becoming recumbent. Rapid and early treatment with Vitamin B1 can see calves respond well and make a full recovery.
- Yersinia in calves - in December we start to see outbreaks of Yersinia in weaned calves. Yersinia bacteria are commonly found in the intestines of most calves. Stress associated with parasites, trace element deficiencies and BVD may result in an overgrowth of this bug in the intestines. Overgrowth results in severe scour. Large percentages of a mob are often affected severely checking growth rates. Mortality rates of 5-10% are not unusual. Isolation of affected animals and treatment with neomycin antibiotic for 3-5 days is an effective treatment/control.



## Johne's News



Adult cattle are a lot less susceptible to picking up new Johne's infections. Most of the infections occur in calves. The goal then is to protect your replacement heifers from infection which occurs via the ingestion of faeces infected with the bacteria. With the majority of calves now being weaned, try to get them off the dairy platform as quickly as possible to the grazier or run off. Ideally you want to have minimal numbers of adult cattle on these blocks as they can be potential source of infection.

Keep an eye open for cows in herd that have clinical Johne's disease. There are a lot of cows that have loose faecal consistency at the moment due to the low dry matter of grass. Don't ignore the cow that is losing weight and going off her milk at the same time. It would pay to get her blood tested and removed from the herd as quickly as possible if she has Johne's.

## Aged Heifer Pregnancy Testing

With the continued uptake in early strategic pregnancy testing in herds using Infovet many clients are now starting to ask if R2 heifers can be age pregnancy tested to their A.I. dates using Infovet.

The answer to this question is yes, provided we scan your heifers at the right time.

Traditionally most heifers have been pregnancy tested in mid-late Feb for a pregnant or empty test. By this stage of

pregnancy the foetus is no longer able to be accurately dated to A.I. conceptions in mid-late October.

If you wish to age pregnancy test your heifers to A.I. dates we need to do both an early and late scan like we would in your cows. The ideal time to scan and identify heifer A.I. conceptions is early-mid December 2018.

Contact one of our Blue Cross Veterinarians if you are interested in this opportunity.