



Veterinary Centre MoozNews

Early Pregnancy Test Results

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

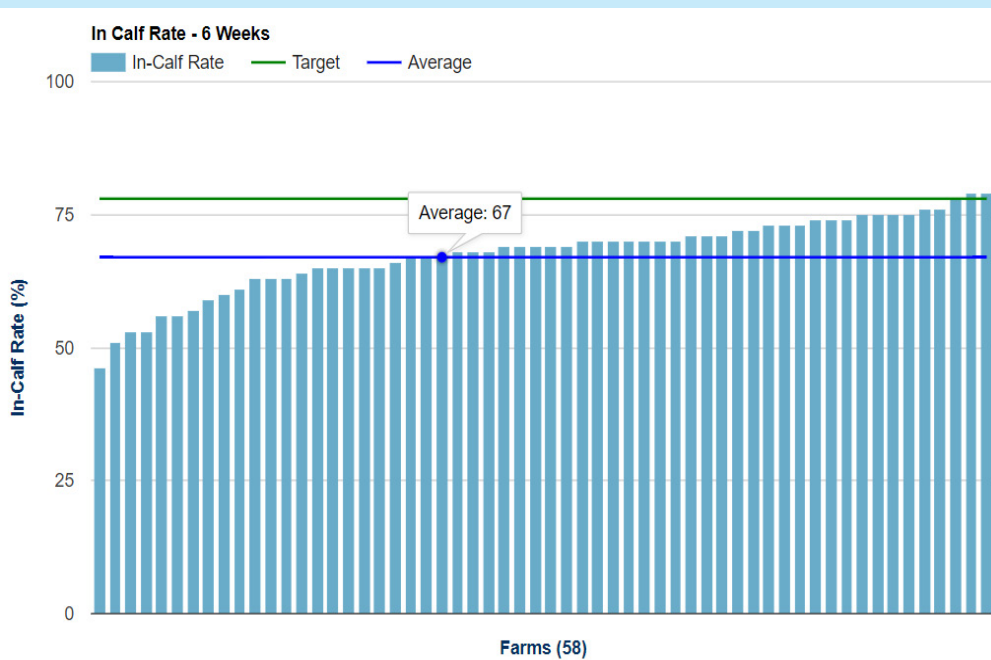


The key measures of optimal reproductive performance are the 6-week-In-Calf-Rate (6w-ICR) and the final not-in-calf rate. To achieve the industry target of a 78% 6w-ICR you will need a >90% 21-day submission rate and >60% CR.

At the time of writing, we were able to benchmark 58 herds that have done an early pregnancy test in our practice. Currently the

average 6w-ICR is sitting at 67%, whereas 2020/21 season this was 69% and 65% the previous season. This season the 3 week Submission Rate (SR) was 80%, compared to 79% last season.

The green line below indicates the industry target goal of 78% (of which three farms have currently achieved this).



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Product of the Month



Eclipse Pour-On for Cattle

Ideal for use in R1 and R2 stock where Cooperia and Ostertagia control is necessary.

- Actives:** Abamectin, Levamisole
- Controls:** Lice, Lungworm, Roundworm
- Withholds:** Meat 35 Days, Milk 35 Days
- Application:** Pour-On
- Dose Rate:** 1ml/20kg

Pricing \$1.10 per 100kg (Excl GST)

Livestock Identification



ORDER Today!

- **Yellow Tags numbered 1-500**, in sizes Maxi Female and Large Male, are in stock in Oamaru clinic.
- **Coloured tags from Button through to Maxi** are available in all Veterinary Centre clinics.
- **NAIT Tags**, with matching Management Tags can be ordered through the Veterinary Centre.
- **PRINTED Tags** can also be ordered in all sizes and colours sent directly to you on farm.



Correctly Identifying the Lamé Claw

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Over the years I have witnessed multiple occasions where farm staff have attacked hooves with knives, grinders and hoof trimmers before correctly determining the site of lameness. This will have frequently resulted in an exacerbation of the overall lameness in the cow.

Before putting any lame cows into the crush, it is important to determine which leg is affected. Our vets tend to record these on a recording sheet. Look for:

- obvious swelling (and hoof shape)

- weight bearing while standing still (the lame foot will be positioned so not to carry as much load)
- a head nod while walking in the case of front leg lameness
- the stride length and speed (the lame leg will have a short stride before taking weight, then the sound leg swings through with a longer stride and is weight loaded for longer.

Once you have determined the lame leg, have tied it up, washed it down and checked for footrot, use hoof testers to confirm where

the lameness is located. This simple tool works by squeezing and putting pressure on the claw. Watch for a repeatable pain response which is easy to recognise in the hind legs by a tensing of the 'hamstring' muscles and the front legs by a tensing of the shoulders. Cows with sole bruising will often have very soft hooves and you will see that the testers easily depress the sole. If there is no response to either claw to hoof testers, then chances are you either have the wrong foot or the cause of lameness is located further up the leg.



Lameness is painful – Get them off the painful claw as quickly as possible. Cow slips and hoof blocks are ideal. Then use anti-inflammatories to reduce pain, swelling and speed recovery should be routine. Ketomax can be used once daily for 2-4 days and has no milk-withhold period.



When it rains, it pours!

Euan Tait BVMS – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

With the consistent inconsistency of this season's weather we have seen a significant increase in the number of lame cows we have been seeing and treating.

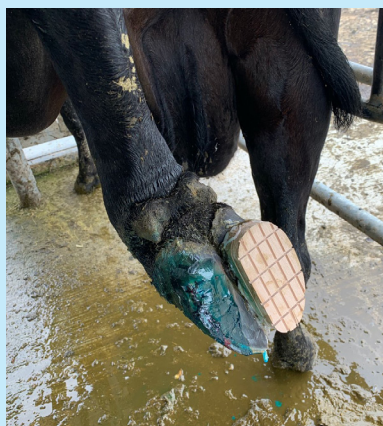
Increases particularly in white line disease and footrot have been marked. With the rain, tracks have started to wear more quickly causing pools of water, stones to be uncovered and surfaces becoming increasingly uneven. As a result, we are also seeing lots of stones and debris being brought on to collecting yards, compounding the risk of white line disease. It is pivotal for staff bringing cows to the yards that care is taken not to push them too hard and allow extra time for them to get to the yards if track quality has deteriorated. Washing down collecting yards thoroughly is very important too.

Prompt and effective treatment of lame cows, as ever, is essential. Those with white line disease benefit from both a block/cow slip AND an anti-inflammatory to speed up recovery and decrease incidence of lameness again. Clinical cases of footrot should be treated with penicillin and recovery is quick. If large numbers are being seen, foot

bathing is a good option to get on top of it – baths should be long and deep enough to get effective control.

Track maintenance, while hard at this time of year, should be upkept to a good standard and any areas of increased wear and tear should be sorted as soon as possible.

If lameness is becoming an increasing issue for your farm, please speak to one of our healthy hoof advisors for advice and further staff training, if required.



Recent treatment of a cow with bad white line disease in Waimate – a wooden block on the good toe and an injection of Ketomax should make for a speedy recovery.



Johne's News



Andrew Muir BVSc BSc (Hons)
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Johne's results are coming back from farms that have signed up for testing during herd testing. LIC are still offering free lab testing on blood samples for high positive animals, circled red below. This isn't necessary to do, but can give you peace of mind if they are cows in the group that are valuable to you or you are new to the testing and are skeptical of the results. There is still a charge for the blood sampling of the cows.

| Results Summary | | Johne's (ELISA) |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| High POSITIVE | | 16 |
| POSITIVE | | 2 |
| Suspect | | 4 |
| No Ab detected | | 550 |

Don't forget about the suspect cows. If there are cows in the suspect list, circled in blue that are going to be culled for other reasons, being empty, mastitis etc, that is fine, however anything that you are thinking of retaining for next season should be blood tested as well. You have to pay for lab fees for these cows.



FREE
Delivery Service

Phone us your order



Do you value benchmarking?

How do you know what's going well and where the opportunities are with your herd health and welfare? Would it be valuable to you to see how you compare to fellow farmers? We are looking at joining WelFarm. It's a programme that collects and consolidates herd level metrics and benchmarks them against other farms regionally and nationally.

The web-based programme works on the principle of measuring, managing and monitoring. It specifically looks at herd health, reproduction and wellness parameters such as body condition scoring, locomotion scoring and tail scoring. It takes a proactive approach and provides a framework to bring what we largely already do into one place with the benchmarking data. We know the value of benchmarking financials within a business so it makes sense to look at your herd too. And having a national programme helps provide clarity and assurance to sector stakeholders.

We look after the data gathering on our side and work with you to analyse your results and make plans to help you get the best from your herd. It also meets the Animals part of the Co-operative Difference for Fonterra suppliers.

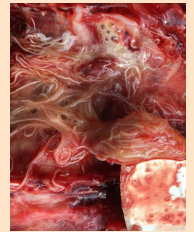
Before the Veterinary Centre commit to the programme we want to find out who would be keen to get involved? Or what you'd like to know before signing up your farm?

**Contact
Mat O'Sullivan
in Oamaru or
Ryan Luckman
in Waimate
if interested!**

Reminders in February

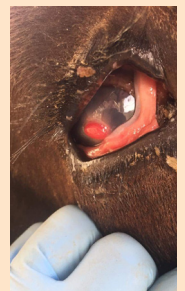
• Lung worm

We saw numerous cases of lung worm outbreaks in January. Lungworm typically affects younger stock but we have had environmental conditions (earlier in season) that promoted larval survival on pasture. This season older animals have been affected as well. Lungworm is sensitive to most drenches - contact your Blue Cross Vet for advice.



• Pink Eye

The practice is seeing an increasing number of cases of Pink eye. This is a contagious disease of calves spread primarily by close contact with infected animals and by flies. Vaccination with Piliguard (A8192 RVM) can be a cost effective control method although vaccination must be given prior to disease occurring. In the affected animals topical ointments or sub-conjunctival injections with appropriate antibiotics are usually effective in curing the affected animals.



GrowSMART Heifer Monitoring Programme

Jess McKenzie BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



Post-weaning the aim is to have calves that continue to gain weight - they should never lose weight or remain static. Some animals don't thrive post-weaning so it is a good idea to continue to regularly weigh. Any calves that are not thriving may need to be separated out/taken home, continued access to calf meal (regardless of weight or age) or examination by a vet.

As a rule of thumb, the amount of feed to **OFFER** youngstock from **weaning to post mating** is:

| |
|--|
| 3 kg DM per 100 kg liveweight |
| + 3 kg DM per 1 kg liveweight gain/day |

Example - For a 150 kg calf gaining 700 grams/day = 4.5 kg DM + 2.1 kg DM = 6.6 kg DM/day.

The aim is to have continued growth rates of at least 600 grams/day to keep young stock on track.

Regular weighing is important – it is the only way to get an 'accurate' assessment of how well they are actually growing and allows you to take action straight away if individuals or a group are performing below target.

Timely Animal Health Reminders:

By now most calves will be off the dairy farm and January/February can be busy months keeping up with animal health treatments....

1. Parasites/Drenching

- Regular drenching of R1's should be continuing using a triple oral combination drench (Matrix Mini-dose) until such a time that Pour-ons/Injections (Eclipse/Eclipse E) become easier to administer.
- Drenching intervals of 4 weeks for orals, 5 weeks for Pour-on/Injection.
- The recent wet and warm environmental conditions promote larval survival on pasture and the challenge that youngstock are facing may currently be high.

2. Trace Elements

Selenium, B12 and copper are generally requiring a top-up by now. Trace element deficiencies can be production-limiting in young stock.

- Both long and short-acting injectable selenium's are available and safe to use

on young stock (when given at the correct dose).

- Injectable B12 is also a good idea about now as a top up if it hasn't been given already.
- A 10 gram copper bullet is a safe and effective form of slow-release copper that can be given to calves about now. As we know from an increase in R2 heifer fractures seen over the last few years copper is essential for the proper cross-linking of collagen with regards to bone growth and supplementation should not be overlooked.
- Sustained release trace element boluses are also available which can provide up to 6-8 months of trace element supplementation.

3. Lepto

- By now R1's should have received at least their first Lepto vaccination, followed by a booster 4 weeks later.
- Don't forget about the R2's – a Lepto booster vaccination is due for them also.

Pre-Mate Heats – How important are they?

Ryan Luckman BVSc (Dist) MANZCVS (Epidemiology)
VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

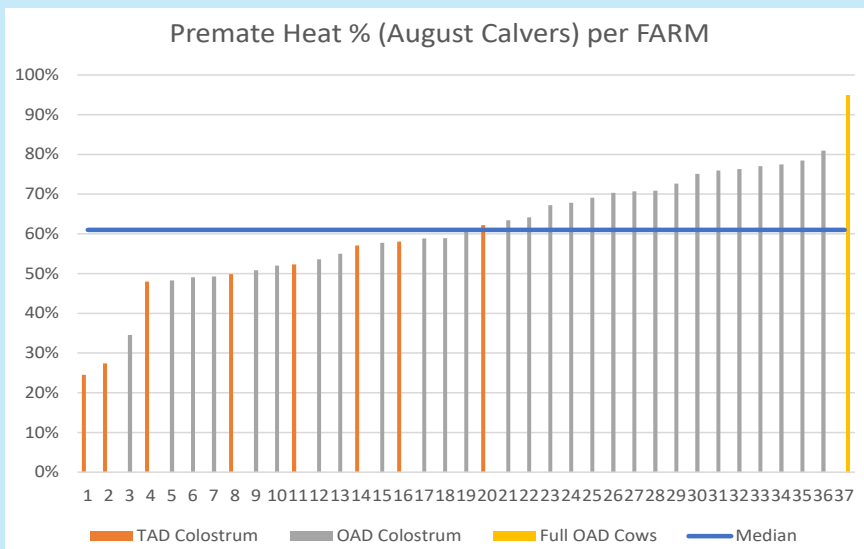


At the start of October we benchmarked pre-mate cycling rates in early calving cows (see the graph below) on our Allflex Farms. By benchmarking just early calving cows we're able to remove the influence of calving date, which enables us to focus in on the farming system itself and potential factors that may be stopping cows cycling after calving.

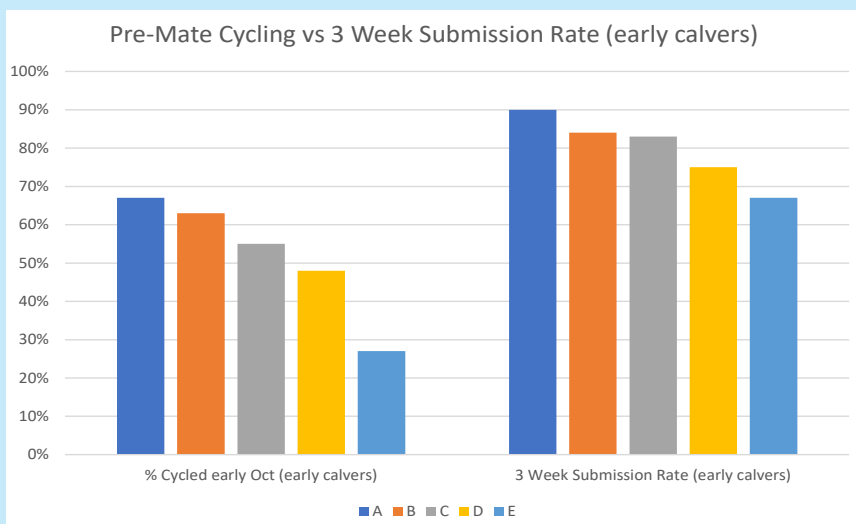
At the time we visited farms to see if we could identify common factors that led to them being in the lower half of the benchmarking. Some of the key issues that

were noted were:

- Poor Transition (especially slow rumination recovery after calving)
- TAD milking in the colostrum period (vs OAD milking)
- Heifers not separated into their own mob
- Negative energy balance coming into mating (this was especially evident on farms doing over 2.2kgMS)
- Long walks (increasing energy demand + decreasing eating time)



In the following graph we have followed through a selection of these farms where NO non-cycler intervention was done, meaning we could get a true reflection of the 3 week submission rate.



As can be seen in the graph, the pre-mate cycling rates strongly reflected the 3 week submission rates. At the lower end, the farm with a 27% pre-mate cycling rate saw only 67% of the herd submitted in the first 3 weeks. Meanwhile the farm with 67% reached the 3 week industry target of 90%. Collars are great at taking heat detection out of the equation when it comes to mating. However we know that heat detection is just the last step in a long process that involves things like; having cows at target BCS, well

transitioned, adequate trace elements, and in a positive energy balance. Cows can't be mated if they don't cycle!

We'll be further analysing collar data over the next few months as final pregnancy test results come in, so watch this space. In the mean time keep an eye on the condition score of your herd – we know drying off at target condition is one of the critical steps to achieving good repro results.

UdderNews

Hamish Newton BVSc PhD
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

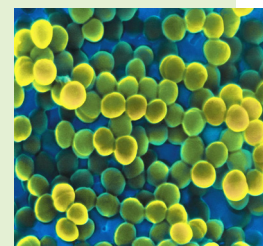


If you are in a position to cull cows this season then consider, before your next herd test, giving us a ring so we can request that the herd testing milk samples be held at the lab. Once the herd test results are completed the milk samples can then be tested for *Staph aureus*. The advantages of using this system to screen for cows who are carriers of *S. aureus* are that,



1. The samples are already collected (no sampling required)
2. The test used is a PCR which is better at finding infections compared to culture
3. If *S. aureus* is present it won't be "over grown" with other bugs as can happen with culture
4. You can either select the cows to be tested (provide a list of cows that you are interested in), **OR** even simpler, provide a set of criteria to decide which cow to test (e.g. she needs to be pregnant, over 5 years old and have a SCC >300,000)

If you can't cull all the cows with a high SCC you would like to, this test can also be of use as if *S. aureus* is not found you can put her on the treat list. The cows which are *S. aureus* positive could remain on the cull list.

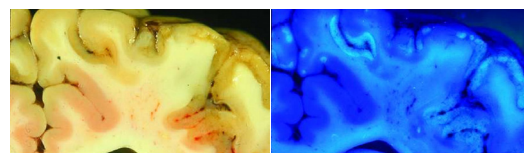


Remember to enter mastitis records into MINDA or InSight!

Polioencephalomalacia

We are once again seeing several cases of P.E. (polioencephalomalacia), a nervous disease seen primarily in calves and younger stock. P.E. is caused by a lack of vitamin B1 (not to be confused with a cobalt deficiency, which is associated with a vitamin B12 deficiency). P.E. is thought to be nutritionally induced, when there is a sudden change in diet from stinky, higher DM diet, to a lush, low fibre diet. A high dietary sulphur intake, especially with brassicas, has also been incriminated as a cause of P.E.

Calves with P.E. appear blind, may walk aimlessly, appear wobbly, have muscle tremors and head press. If calves are treated early in the disease process with a series of vitamin B1 injections, survival rates are good. In an outbreak situation we have had good success, by prophylactically treating the remaining, unaffected calves, in the group with an oral vitamin B1 drench. This has proved a very cost effective preventative measure.



The brain of a calf with PE, fluoresces under a UV light.