Veterinary Centre MoozNews

Six Week In-Calf Rate (ICR)

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

The industry 6 Week ICR target is 78% and every year we like to celebrate those who achieved a 75% 6 Week ICR or better. This season to date our district average figure is 66%, compared to 67% in 2021.

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
24	**15**	**6**	**8**	**18**	**28**	**26**	**24**

This season we have 24 farms – well done everyone.

Roll of Honour

Name	In-Calf Rate (6 Weeks)
John & Olivia Williams - JLO	80
Luke Campbell - Richard Spicer - Westmere	79
Mark & Ciara Hodder - Belvue	79
Bernard & Merlyn Lauglaug - DHL Peebles Siding	79
Lachlan McConnachie & Ros Thompson – DHL Sunrise	79
Ewan & Leanne Hollever - Oceanview Dairy Ltd	78
John & Nicola Guy - Te Waiu Ltd	77
Morgan & Hayley Easton – Ronnie & Hazel Barrientos - Stonyhurst	77
Marty & Nuki Sinkus - DHL Retell	77
Rodney & Kelly Herrick - DHL Seven Mile Dairy	77
Allon Wood - Longview	77
Kieran & Sonia Henshaw - Waihao Fields	77
Graham Butler - Gareth Fraser-Wood - Mu Kau	76
Greig & Rachel Moore - Moore Farms 2008 Ltd	76
Edward & Becca Finlay - Steve Kirkman - Flag Farms	76
Karl & Emma Guy - Lorenzo & Myra Cavinta - Bonnie Doon	76
Grant & Lucy Tremewan - Maerewhenua Investment Limited	75
Robin & May Murphy - Kieran & Paul Byrne - Murphy Farms	75
Robin & May Murphy - Brent & Debbie Tiffen - Murphy Farms	75
Lucien & Lynley Verkerk - Simon Chamberlain- Verkerk Dairying Limited	75
Callum & Twyla Kingan - Windsor Park	75
Mark Cressy - Pablo Yanez & Francesca Conador - Stillwater	75
Mark & Carmen Hurst - Troy & Donna Yaxley - Waterstone	75
Hamish & Rachel McFarlane	75

In this Issue

Small Changes for a Big Impact in Lameness Reduction

Euan Tait BVMS – **VETERINARY CENTRE** Waimate

Daily lame cow numbers aren't quite up there with Omicron cases, but they're certainly not reducing. With the nature of the weather this year, neither the cows, nor farm staff, are getting a break when it comes to lameness. While the weather has played a large part in the increased numbers, lameness is of course multifactorial. It is hard during the milking season to make infrastructure changes to tracks, so remembering the impact humans have on lameness is important in keeping numbers as low as possible even with other on-going issues:

1. Walking distances – older, heavier cows should ideally be walking the least distance on the farm. With many people on 16 hourly or similar the distance cows are walking is already reduced, but still consider trying to keep at risk cows in paddocks closer to the shed. As ever, cows in a lame mob should be as close as possible.
2. Standing times – starting milking as soon as is practically possible after cows have been collected is a good tool in reducing lameness. Decreased pressure on feet means smaller chance of white line separation and subsequent lameness
3. Feed management – do lame cows go skinny or do skinny cows go lame? This could be an article in itself. Keeping cows in good body condition will maintain a good fat pad in the foot which protects the bone in the foot from damage and lameness
4. Pushing cows – maintaining distance and bringing cows in at a relaxed pace will allow the cows to be a bit more selective on where they walk on deteriorating tracks. Cows will naturally slow down walking on poor tracks so allowing a bit more time than normal when bringing in cows and not getting frustrated at a slower pace could save a case or two of lameness every day.
5. Cow flow – hopefully at this stage in the season cow flow in and out of the shed should be good. Keep top gate use to a minimum or not at all. Backing gate shouldn't be used in the first 20 minutes of milking and should either be set on a timer thereafter or moved a small amount after a certain number of cows have been milked. The backing gate should only ever be used to close space on a yard – never to physically move cows.
6. Collecting yard – make sure the collecting yard is properly hosed down after each milking and ready for the next. Lots of stones are being brought on to yards just now and getting rid of them is a huge help in reducing lameness.
7. Treatment –early, effective treatment of lame cows is still the most powerful tool in helping reduce future lameness. Using blocks or cow slips gives the damaged hoof chance for repair. Administering an anti-inflammatory (such as ketomax) will help decrease chances of permanent change within the hoof and also provide pain relief to lame cows.

Lameness in a season like this can certainly be overwhelming and it's a depressing sight to see big numbers in the lame cow mob. If you need help with treating cows, please don't hesitate to ring us.

Lameness is painful – Get them off the painful claw as quickly as possible. Cow slips and hoof blocks are ideal. The use of 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.

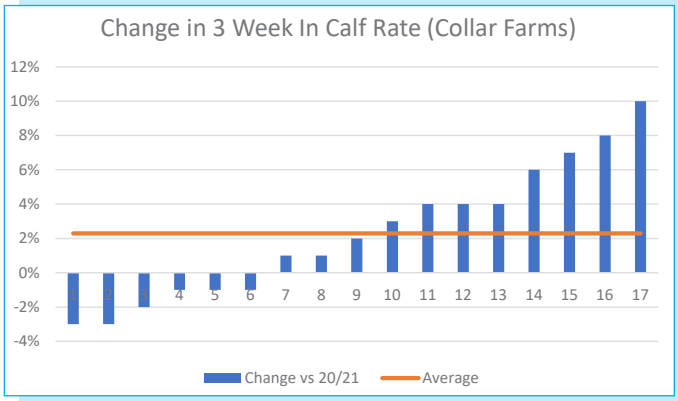
ACVM A01103

Interim Collar Repro Performance

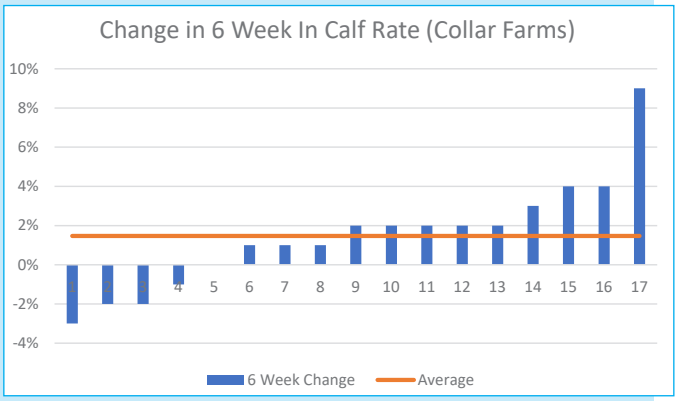
Ryan Luckman BVSc (Dist) MANZCVS (Epidemiology) – **VETERINARY CENTRE** Waimate

They always say you never get a high payout AND an easy season, and this year certainly holds true! As we've been traveling around the district dodging rain clouds the most frequent question has been about how the results are looking for the collar farms??

At the time of writing we have had 17 of our collar farms (with two years of pregnancy testing data) come through to our Infovet Benchmarking Summary report which we've used for the analysis below. The two graphs below summarise the change in 3WICR and 6WICR on each of these 17 farms.



On average these farms have had a 2.3% increase in 3WICR, and a 1.5% increase in 6WICR.



The same analysis on our non-collar farms from the Summary report shows that at the practice level these farms have had a slight drop of -0.4% in 3WICR, and essentially no change (-0.04%) in the 6WICR.

Interim Pregnancy Results 2021/2022		
Farm Type	3WICR Change	6WICR Change
Collar Farms	2.3%	1.5%
Non-Collar Farms	-0.4%	-0.04%

Watch this space for a full data set (around twice the number of farms) in the next Mooz News, as well as some greater breakdown of the collar specific repro data we can now analyse to look at where opportunities to improve may lie.

Drenching Dairy Cattle in Autumn

- There is considerable trial work available both nationally and in our district showing that drenching lactating dairy cattle is likely to result in an increase in milk solids production.
- Cydectin pour on and Eprinex are 2 of the most effective anthlemintics, both having significant persistent activity against Ostertagia species of 4 weeks or more.
- Both Cydectin and Eprinex have nil meat and nil milk withholds making their use in lactating herds very easy to manage.
- Genesis cattle pour on is a premium abamectin product with 14 days persistent activity. It has 35 days meat withhold so needs to be managed carefully when making culling decisions.

Whatever your approach to autumn drenching of your herd we are always available to give professional advice on the products available that will optimise your herd performance.

Eprinex ACVM A007191
Cydectin ACVM A006203
Genesis ACVM A007353

Oceania Dairy suppliers, as a condition of supply, can not use abamectin based products.

Oceania DAIRY

FREE Delivery Service

You are all busy so get your orders in to your nearest clinic by **10am** for same day delivery!

Phone us your order before 10am!

Creating a Nutritionally Balanced Fodder Beet Crop

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

As everyone is now well aware FB is heavy on soluble carbohydrates, but is typically low in crude protein, calcium and phosphate.

Dry cow diets need an absolute minimum of 10-11% crude protein, but this ramps up to a minimum of 16% as a springer cow. Cows on low crude protein diets fail to gain condition, have lowered immunity in the peri-partum period and retarded mammary gland replenishment. A high percentage of FB protein is found in the leaf. Growing, healthy leaf will ensure protein is maintained in the crop into the winter. Leaf die back or senescence will lower protein yield.

FB crops that are low in crude protein will typically also have low Calcium and Phosphate content. Prolonged diets low in Calcium will erode bone stores both increasing milk fever risk and lactational potential. Active leaf will continue to draw up more minerals through the roots.

By actively maintaining leaf yield and growth through the autumn, this should provide the best potential for your crop. Jim Gibbs recommends 50kg of Potassium and 50kg Nitrogen/ha in late Jan/early Feb and again in late March.

Laboratory testing of crops in April will allow time for planning of supplements to ensure the crop is balanced.

Introducing our New Vets in Oamaru

Introducing

Con Ten Cate

I was born in The Netherlands, at 4 years old my family decided to make the move to NZ. Since then I have lived around the North Island, spending most of my time in Tauranga where my family is based. I'm interested in all aspects of dairy farming and look forward to working in this sector, especially getting stuck into the calving season. Living in Oamaru I will spend my spare time finding powder, ticking off tramps, getting involved in the local golf and squash clubs, and indulging in the occasional Scott's beer.

Introducing

Pearl Vesty

After graduating from Massey I have made the move down south. From growing up on an orchard and deer farm in sunny Hawkes Bay, to Massey in Palmerston North, Oamaru is my next adventure and I'm so far loving it.

I'm looking forward to getting more involved in the dairy industry and am interested in delving more into the nutrition side of things.

Outside of work I love to get out and do sport, exercise and dancing. I've recently joined the Crossfit team so giving that my best go and otherwise love spending time with family and friends.

UdderNews

Hamish Newton BVSc PhD – **VETERINARY CENTRE** Oamaru

Teatsealing heifers is now almost "standard practice", and it is easy to forget how effective Teatsealing is at reducing mastitis. As a reminder of how effective Teatseal is in heifers we managed to get the heifer mastitis histories from a farm business that, last Autumn, did not Teatseal all their heifers. 275 heifers were Teat-sealed and 338 were left un-Teatsealed. Unsurprisingly the heifers that were left un-Teatsealed suffered with more mastitis (at least one episode of mastitis) than those that were Teatsealed (31% vs 12%). This data was reassuring but the real "gold" was the farmer had also coded the heifers as being a "3 titter" / light quartered.

When I looked at whether there was an association with being classified as a "3 titter" and having received Teatseal, 4.36% of heifers that received Teatseal were called "3 titters" compared with 6.51% of heifers that did not get Teatsealed.

Of course, the most likely to be the reason for being a "3 Titter" is a quarter "going light" after a case of mastitis, and is what we found. If a heifer had a case of mastitis she was more likely to be a "3 titter" regardless of whether she had been Teatsealed or not.

	Had the heifer had mastitis?		Total
	Mastitis	No mastitis	
Percentage of all First calvers classified as a "3 titter"	13.67%	3.16%	**5.55%**
Percentage of Teatsealed First calvers classified as a "3 titter"	8.82%	3.73%	**4.36%**
Percentage of Un-Teatsealed First calvers classified as a "3 titter"	15.24%	2.58%	**6.51%**

Percentage of heifers that were classified as "3 titter" and whether they had mastitis or not.

Sagittal section of the right hind quarter of cow 3 showing what seems to be a reduced teat cistern

What surprised me, was that regardless of whether a heifer had experienced mastitis or not, about 3% of heifers were classified by the farmer as a "3 titter" or having a light quarter.

In mid-November 2020 we collected 9 udders from heifers with "blind quarters" from the works. When the blind quarters were sliced from the teat end up to the base of the teat there was not an obvious teat sinus. This explains why these quarters, when a teat siphon is inserted, appear to have a patent teat. We also got these teats examined under a microscope by a pathologist. They found no changes that supported the idea that the thickening of the teat walls was associated with Teatseal.

We do not know why some teats from some heifers appear to have teats with thickened teat walls that results in no teat sinus, but it is not, in udders we have had examined by a pathologist, caused by teat-sealants causing scarring or inflammation.

Conclusions

Most 3 titters or light quartered heifers will have had mastitis but somewhere in the region of 3% of heifers will have a light quarter of unknown cause.

It appears that from the teats we have had examined that Teatseal is not the cause of blind quarters.

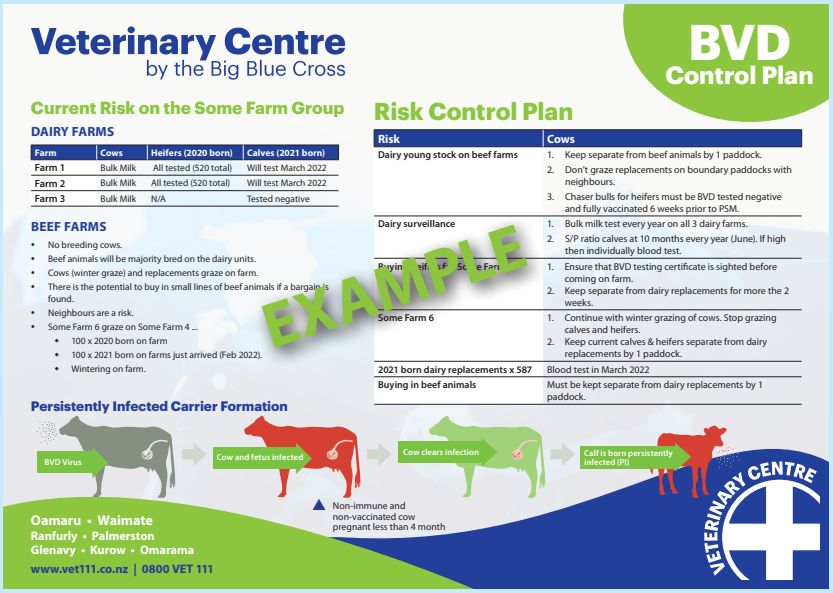
Finally a reminder that Teat-sealing your heifers will reduce your heifer mastitis by at least half.

BVD Bulletin

Andrew Muir BVSc BSc (Hons)
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

We have become very good at monitoring BVD in milking herds with the use of bulk milk monitor packages. They are simple and very reliable. However this isn't monitoring over the complete farm system, eg what is happening with calves, heifers and beefies that are being reared. As a result of these gaps in our monitoring, BVD virus turns up in milking cows when it isn't expected.

Recently I sat down with a client that had this issue with BVD in their operation. We identified their BVD risk factors and how they are going to manage them. An easy to follow plan has been produced which will allow them to control BVD in the future. If you wish to do the same thing for your operation contact your prime vet.



Veterinary Centre
MoozNews
EXTRA

GrowRight
MONITORING

Jess McKenzie BVSc – **VETERINARY CENTRE** Waimate

Relocation of calves can be a stressful time – transportation and settling into a new environment is a worrying time for them! It can result in growth checks and be a trigger for other animal health issues including pneumonia, parasites and scouring (Yersinia/Salmonella) if things are not well managed.

What happens when something stresses a calf?

- Cortisol levels increase.
- This gets the calf ready for the 'fight or flight' response.
- However, there is a trade-off….
- Cortisol also turns down or turns off the immune system.
- Meaning that the calf may succumb to a disease that they would otherwise have been able to fight off, had there not been a stressful event.

Sources of stress for calves include things such as:

- Poor nutrition
- Adverse/extreme weather
- Transportation
- Changes in environment
- Competition in new groups
- Parasite challenge
- Lack of trace element supplementation
- General husbandry practices (eg. Diet changes, vaccinations etc.)

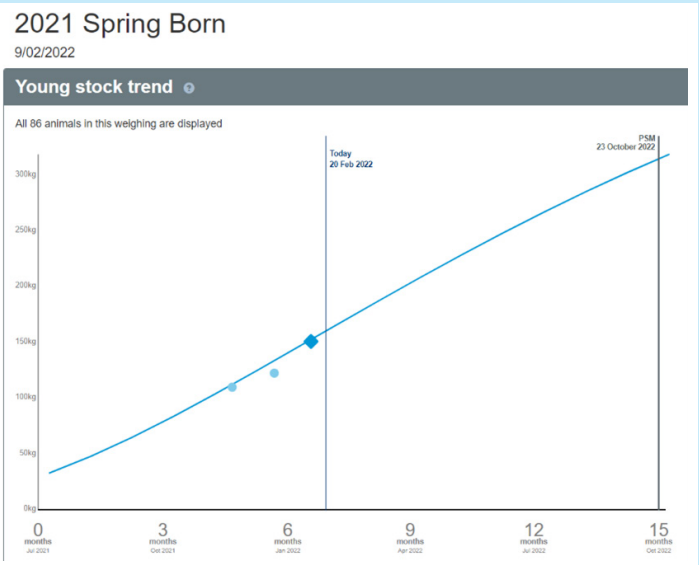
The graphs below provide a good example of relocation of calves as a 'stressor':

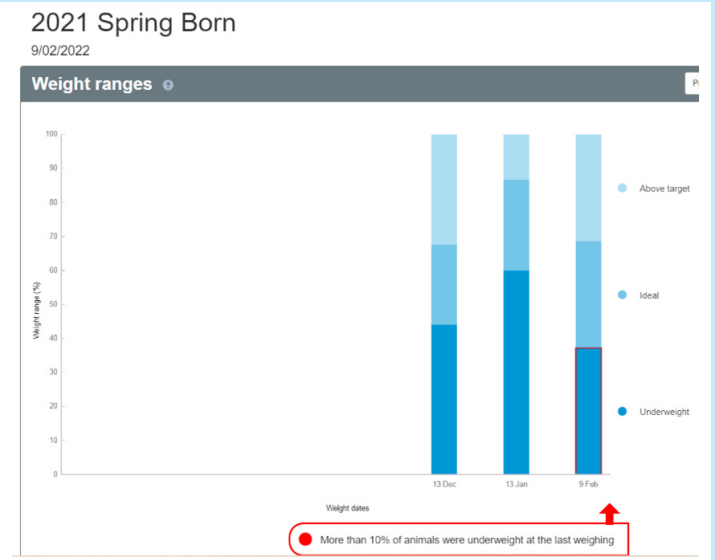
Graphs show a mob of 86 x R1 dairy heifers - relocated to an irrigated grazing block approx. 40 minutes away, late December. A distinct growth check is evident for 2-3 weeks after relocating, despite everything else being well managed.

- Growth rates dropped to an average of 400 grams/day during this period, despite being well fed on arrival.
- Transportation, a new environment and rearrangement into a new mob additively created enough 'stress' in this example for a growth check to occur.
- Calves were in good health otherwise – good parasite control, trace element supplementation and vaccinations up to date.
- Once settled they are now back up to 700 grams/day.

Although no disease or other ill-effects were encountered in this example – largely due to continued good nutrition and animal health - it likely depicts a very common scenario when young calves are moved to grazing blocks or placed under any form of stress.

Every stressful event can suppress the immune system, but if you combine them and the stress becomes great, disease is more likely to result. To minimise the risk of disease in calves, aim to reduce the effect of stressful situations as much as you can and try to avoid multiple stressors occurring at once.





Mating Commentary 21-22 Season

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

The 2021/22 season has pretty much seen a mirror of performance on the 2020/21 season.

The average key measures of submission rate were identical between the two seasons at 82%, the 3-week pregnancy rates both sat at 46%, as was the 6-week pregnancy rate at 67%. In 20.21 season we had 26 herds achieve greater than 75% 6WICR and this season this was similar at 24.

It would be hard to argue that the two season were the same however. Winter was challenging for many farms, this saw cow condition coming out of the winter well below the season before. Early season lactation figures were down around 8% for the entire Canterbury region through August/September (the 20.21 also had the dream start of sunshine, dry conditions, and firm grass).

A key focus needs to remain with the improvement of submission rate. At an average of 82%, this is well below the industry target at 90%. The vast disparity of speed of resumption of cycling as seen in the collar herds would indicate that cow management factors have a far greater bearing on performance than weather conditions alone do. The transition management period (3 weeks pre and post calving) remains a focus.

Conception rates are that final piece of the puzzle, this is driven by an array of performance areas (calving date, cow condition, energy status in the pre-mate/mating period, genetics, age, uterine disease). Good transition and a rapid condition recovery post-calving is a good focal starting point for improvement.

By far the most consistent feature of those herds having good six week in-calf rates are a high percentage of the herd calved down by 3 and 6 weeks. This all starts with well-grown early calving heifers, but also ensuring that the calving/mating period does not extend beyond 10-11 weeks.