

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 70%, compared to 67% in 2023.

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
15	6	8	18	28	26	24	27	40

This season we have 40 farms – well done everyone.

Farm Name	Owner	Sharemilker/Contract Milk/Shed Manager <small>Contract Milker (CM), Sharemilker (SH), Pod Manager (PM), Shed Manager (SM), Farm Manager (FM)</small>	6 Week In-calf Rate (6WICR)
Blue Cliffs Dairy	Sandy & Jenny McAlwee	Stuart Johnstone	82
Retell Holdings Ltd	DHL Holdings Ltd	Marty & Nuki Sinkus	82
Vaca Farms Ltd	DHL Holdings Ltd	Bernard & Merlyn Lauglaug	82
Willowcreek Dairy Ltd	DHL Holdings Ltd	Julius & Mary Caballero	81
Rylock Farms	DHL Holdings Ltd	Lachlan & Roslyn McConnachie	81
Hillbrook Dairies Ltd	Nick & Kate Webster	Sarah Smart/Micky Todd	80
Bonnie Doon Farms Ltd	Karl & Emma Guy	Lorenzo & Myra Cavinta	80
Nottingham Dairy Farm	Tim & Kim Richards		80
Mountain View Dairies	Paul Gow & Sonia McKerchar	Vidura Gunawardane	79
Seven Mile Dairy Ltd (Dairy Holdings Ltd)	DHL Holdings Ltd	Rodney & Kelly Herrick	79
Te Waiu Ltd	John & Nicola Guy		79
M C Hodder Trust Ltd	Doug & Ann Hodder	Mark & Ciara Hodder	78
Murphy Farms Ltd # 7	Robin & May Murphy	Brent McEwan	78
Seamist Dairies	David Legg	Terry Wells	78
Hoofing-It Dairies Ltd	Mark & Louise Jellyman		78
Tamac Farms Ltd	Tim & Deborah McKenzie		78
Papakaio Dairies Ltd	Peter & Emma Smit		78
Waiareka Dairy Ltd	Craigmore Farming Services	Marara Singh (FM) and Ed Von Randow (PM)	78
Blacktag N.Z Ltd	Gary MacLean	Thayan Ramachandran	78
Cantley Developments Ltd - Sunrise	DHL Holdings Ltd	Jeremy & Louise Dyson (CM) and Ian Miranda (FM)	77
Longview Dairies 2018 Ltd	Andrew & Jane McFarlane	Allon & Hannah (SH) and Majed Muhammad (FM)	77
Terrace Top Dairy Ltd	DHL Holdings Ltd	Satinder & Kiran Sekhon	77
Windsor Dairy Farming Ltd - Claybrooke	Craigmore Farming Services	Nick Marasigan (FM) and Ed Von Randow (PM)	77
Kokoamo - Domett View	Matt & Julie Ross	Daniel & Charlotte Montgomery	77
Windsor Dairy Farming Ltd	Craigmore Farming Services	Craig & Jen Fellows (FM) and Ed Von Randow (PM)	77
Glencairn Dairy Ltd	Craigmore Farming Services	Jack Taggart (FM) and Jonny Douglas (PM)	77
Waitahanui Farms Ltd	Ross & Donna Robertson	Mark & Roxanne Purugganan	76
Kokoamo - Strachans	Matt & Julie Ross	Daniel & Charlotte Montgomery	76
Rotoma Farms Ltd	Grant & Trina Barber	Luke & Melissa Mehring	76
Pine Hill Dairy Ltd	Craigmore Farming Services	Scott & Megan Rowland	76
Holland Farming Ltd	Mike & Christine Holland	Jackson & Courtney Attfield	76
H F Farming Ltd	Hamish & Fiona Winter		75
Butter Barn Ltd	Ed Finlay	Ram Lastimoso	75
Dinnae Ken Ltd	Brendan & Avril Lane		75
Woodland Acres Ltd	DHL Holdings Ltd	Roley & Yranee Monoy	75
Flag Farms Ltd	Ed Finlay	Raymond Serilo	75
Kowhai Dairy Ltd		Geoffrey & Alicia Sewell	75
Eden, Ray & Glenda	Ray & Glenda Eden	Roz Eden	75
Smit Dairies Ltd - Wynfield	Corrie & Donna Smit	Steven & Tineke Smit	75
Westmere	Luke & Sam Campbell	Nayana Barbosa	75

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

(Lincoln University) 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.

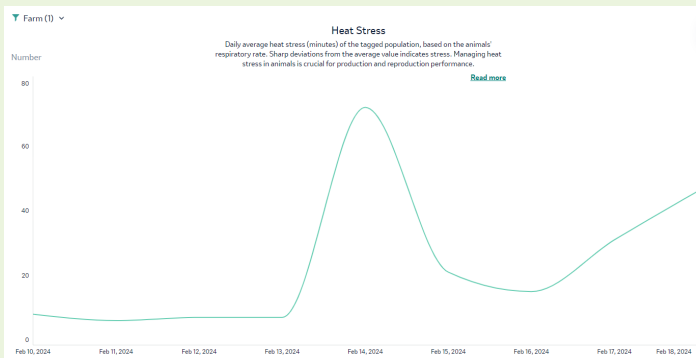


Heat Stress – Not just a North Island Problem

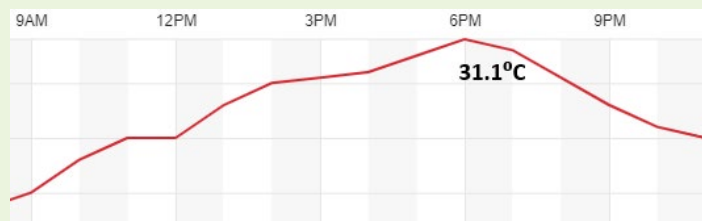


Ryan Luckman BVSc (Dist) MANZCVS (Epidemiology) – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

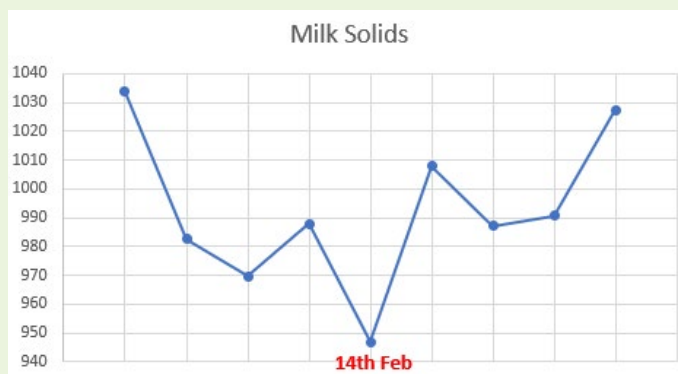
At the Southern Dairy Hub recently a research project highlighted that there were more heat stress days in Invercargill than the Waikato this season! Locally we have seen (and felt) similar issues over the Summer. The graph below, from a collar herd shows a large spike in heavy breathing, the cow's equivalent of us sweating to try and cool down, on Valentines day (a hot day for cow's as well apparently...). On that day the average heat stress minutes hit around 80 minutes, from a typical baseline of just 10-20 minutes.



Looking at the local weather station the day hit 31.1 degrees, peaking as late as 6pm in the day. It is likely that this late peak contributed to the increase in heat stress as cows would have been walking to the shed, be packed tight together during milking, and then have a fresh feed of grass (which heats them up more) at the hottest part of the day.



From a milk production point of view we see drops in daily production, as the cows are generally too hot to eat. In this case there was about a 4-5% drop on the heat stress day.



What can you do to minimise heat stress?

- Cool drinking water is hugely important. Install multiple water troughs in main lanes to and from the shed
- Wet down the hot concrete before the cows come on the yard
- Install sprinklers on the yard (these might be used morning and afternoon if the night was hot)
- Put sprinklers on the shed roof (and/or misters inside the shed)
- Try to avoid milking in the heat of the day
- Milk smaller herd sizes to minimise the time spent on the yard
- Let cows move at their own pace – chasing slow cows down the lane will just heat them up more
- Long term planting shelter trees will be important



Mating Commentary 2023/24 Season

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



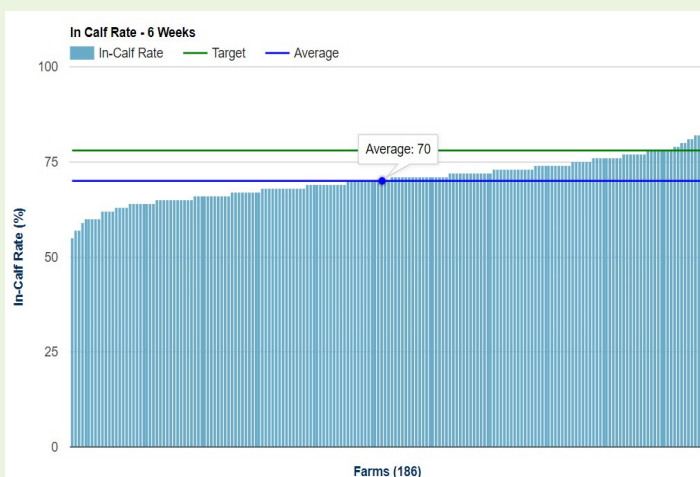
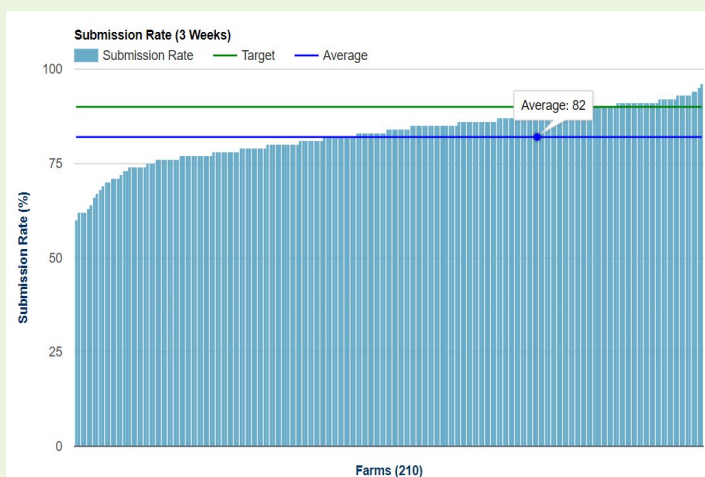
The 2023/24 season has seen the clients of our practice achieve the highest average six week in-calf rates in the 25 years I have been involved with it. The average was at 70% and the median 71%.

A key factor in this was a lift in the 3 week-submission rate which saw the median in the district rise from 80% last season to 83% this season (the target is >90%). This came from natural heats in the main as non-cycler intervention was similar to last season.

A lot of this year's result was determined very early in the season. You may remember the bench marking reports for Allflex collar farms we produced in late September that showed a tremendous lift in early season cycling activity. Much of this activity is determined by the cow condition at calving and her energy status during the transition period in the following month.

The 23/24 season opened with a dry winter (albeit a late but welcome rain at the end of July), which ensured good crop utilisation and condition gains. Average pasture covers at the PSC were significantly up and had great quality right to the base of the sward thanks to the fair conditions. From there the spring had most farms balancing a knife edge for pasture supply versus demand but this ensured high quality grass for future rounds.

Looking forward the next challenge will be to ensure a feed budget that provides enough feed for a more compacted calving next season. This will be vital especially given that many dryland winter crops are likely to underperform given the dry conditions. If cows can be fed well, the compacted calving pattern could see further improvement in next seasons mating performance.



GrowSmart

Jess McKenzie BVSc (Dist) – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



Young Stock – Relocation & Animal Health Reminders

January/February are big months for calves. Many hours of hard work and care have gone into them to get them to the point where they can finally go away to grazing. But it doesn't stop there....! Relocation and settling into a new environment is a stressful and worrying time for them. And when not well managed it can result in growth checks and be a trigger for other animal health issues such as pneumonia, parasitism and scouring (Yersinia/Salmonella).

A few reminders to help keep the stress levels down during this time:

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 (e.g. diet changes, vaccinations etc.)
- 1. Feeding levels are KEY** – if you don't feed them enough, they won't grow.
 - It is extremely common to get a check in growth rates for 2-3 weeks after relocating calves, despite being well fed and everything else being well managed. This is largely due to the stress of transportation, settling into a new environment and often rearrangement into a new mob. Aim to minimise by ensuring feed quantity and quality are adequate on arrival – make this your key focus.
 - 2. Animal health is also KEY** – stick to and maintain a good animal health plan.
 - Regular drenching programme (drenching intervals of 4 weeks for orals, 5 weeks for pour-on's/injectable).
 - A triple or double combination drench product containing levamisole should be used for R1 calves right up until their first winter (and as their first drench in spring). Levamisole is the only drench active that will kill the

GI parasite Cooperia - use of a single active drench product will lead to a build-up of this parasite and possible signs of stress/GI parasitism.

- Calves by now should have received:
 - Copper supplementation (10g copper bullet)
 - Selenium/B12 supplementation
 - Lepto sensitiser + booster vaccination
- 3. Regular weighing is essential** – to monitor progress and catch any problems early.
 - 4. And last, but not least – a good relationship with the grazier is crucial**, as you work towards a common end goal. Keep in touch regularly and discuss any issues as they arise, before they turn into a problem too big to handle.

Every stressful event can suppress the immune system, but when combined 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.



UdderNEWS

Hamish Newton BVSc, PhD - Veterinary Centre



Staph aureus is in 85% of herds – often causing minimal issues

The latest DairyNZ mastitis fact sheet states that about 85% of herds will have some cows that are infected with Staph aureus. It goes on to say that Staph aureus accounts for about 10% of clinical mastitis cases but can be significantly more in an out-break situation.

There are options for screening your herd to find the Staph aureus cows, and either cull them or manage them in such a way as they don't spread the infection.

Remember though, there are many herds out there where there is Staph aureus found in the Bulk Milk (we find it regularly in the AntibioGram tests, even in low BMSCC herds). Staph aureus in the Bulk Milk is not causing a significant issue, so before you decide to test and cull your way to being "Staph free" decide ... do you have an issue and, what are the herds that have Staph but not an issue doing that you aren't.

What is happening with infected herds that don't have an issue, knowingly or unknowingly, is the cows are managed and that infection is not being spread from cow to cow, so the percentage of infected cows is low.

The main source of Staph aureus is infected milk from infected quarters, being transferred on liners or milker's hands to uninfected cows. Effective practices to slow or prevent the spread of Staph aureus are:

- Having clean hands – this really means wearing gloves, wet gloves are cleaner than wet hands.
- Using teat-spray on every teat at every milking will reduce the spread by 50%.
- Have teats that are not cracked or have

teat end lesions – these teats are harder to disinfect, and teat end lesion suggests there is over milking occurring or the vacuum is excessive, or the pulsation is incorrect, or the liners are well past their life expectancy.

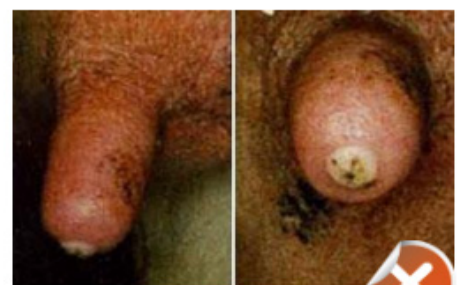
- These farms usually have good records so when they have a cow that gets a repeat mastitis case, before treating for the 3rd or 4th time, they consider drying the quarter off, drying off the cow early, or even culling.

If your farm set up allows it, consider running the 3 titters, high SCC cows and cows that have been treated for mastitis in a mob that gets milked last – or at least not in the first herd – so any contaminated liners end up on less cows. If you are considering testing the whole herd for Staph please phone your prime vet at the Veterinary Centre. There are numerous options out there, each with their pros and cons.

Rough skin or cracking around teat orifice - also known as "teat-end hyperkeratosis"



No ring (healthy)



Rough ring



Smooth or a slightly rough ring



Very rough ring 1



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 by the Big Blue Cross

Current Risk on the Some Farm Group

Farm	Cows	Heifers (2020 born)	Calves (2021 born)
Farm 1	Bulk Milk	All tested (520 total)	Will test March 2022
Farm 2	Bulk Milk	All tested (520 total)	Will test March 2022
Farm 3	Bulk Milk	N/A	Tested negative

BEEF FARMS

- No breeding cows.
- Beef animals will be majority bred on the dairy units.
- Cows (winter graze) and replacements graze on farm.
- There is the potential to buy in small lines of beef animals if a bargain is found.
- Neighbours are a risk.
- Some Farm 6 graze on Some Farm 4 ...
 - 100 x 2020 born on farm
 - 100 x 2021 born on farms just arrived (Feb 2022).
 - Wintering on farm.

Persistently Infected Carrier Formation

Risk Control Plan

Risk	Cows
Dairy young stock on beef farms	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Keep separate from beef animals by 1 paddock. 2. Don't graze replacements on boundary paddocks with neighbours. 3. Chaser bulls for heifers must be BVD tested negative and fully vaccinated 6 weeks prior to PSM.
Dairy surveillance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bulk milk test every year on all 3 dairy farms. 2. S/P ratio calves at 10 months every year (June). If high then individually blood test.
Buying heifers for Some Farm 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that BVD testing certificate is sighted before buying on farm. 2. Separate from dairy replacements for more the 2 weeks.
Some Farm 6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue with winter grazing of cows. Stop grazing calves and heifers. 2. Keep current calves & heifers separate from dairy replacements by 1 paddock.
20 dairy replacements x 587 buying in beef animals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Blood test in March 2022 2. Must be kept separate from dairy replacements by 1 paddock.

EXAMPLE

Oamaru • Waimate
Ranfurly • Palmerston
Glenavy • Kurow • Omarama
www.vet111.co.nz | 0800 VET 111

VETERINARY CENTRE

Drench Strategies for Autumn



Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Moving into the autumn period, it is time to start thinking about shedding the worm burden your herd has accumulated over the season. During the months of March and April we see the highest seasonal load of larval parasites on pasture.

Using long-acting pour-on products allows you to remove the existing burden, while continuing to control any newly ingested larvae for a period of around 4-5 weeks. Therefore, the optimal time to use the likes of Cydectin or Eprinex would be around mid-April. One area of consideration here though is that if treatment occurs too early in the autumn there may be opportunity for lice to repopulate over the winter/spring and require retreatment.

As a reminder pour-on products that contain abamectin may no longer be used in lactating cattle (35 day milk withhold). Genesis is no longer available but we do stock an abamectin product which is suitable for treatment of lice and internal worms (little persistent activity) at dry off.

Veterinary Centre MoozNews EXTRA

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Lactating Cows

CYDECTIN

Pour-On for Cattle & Deer

Delivering the trusted power of moxidectin in a convenient pour-on formulation with 35 days persistent activity against Ostertagia and treats lice



Cydectin ACVM A006203

15 Litres

\$1,765.00

ACTIVE – Moxidectin
WHP – Meat & Milk NIL
DOSE – 1ml/10kg
DOSE COST – 500kg

\$5.11
+GST

NIL Milk WHP

LICE Treatment

Young Stock

ECLIPSE

POUR-ON for Cattle

5.5L
10% Extra FREE



Eclipse Pour-On ACVM A009270

5.5 Litres

\$1,299.00

ACTIVE – Abamectin, Levamisole
WHP – Meat & Milk 35 Days
DOSE – 1ml/20kg
DOSE COST – 200kg (10mL)

\$2.05
+GST

Introducing

Tim Horton BVSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

I was born in Upper Hutt where I spent most of my life before heading to Palmerston North to study. I have always been passionate about animals which drove me to become a veterinarian.

Outside of work I enjoy spending time in the outdoors, going for walks or bike rides as well as playing squash when the weather is not as nice.

I am excited to get stuck into all aspects of the dairy industry and I'm also particularly interested in lameness and reproduction.



Selovin LA

Long-acting Injectable Selenium Supplement



Selovin LA ACVM A009509

- A single injection guarantees selenium levels for 12 months.
- For heifers this ensures adequate selenium for pregnancy, calving and early lactation.
- For calves this ensures adequate selenium for growth through their first winter
- Calves born with higher selenium levels have better survival rates.

DOSE RATES

Calves	1-2 ml
Yearling Cattle	3-5ml
Adult Cattle	6-10ml

5ml Dose

\$3.96 +GST

Photosensitivity in Cattle

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



Photosensitivity (PS) can occur in cattle at any stage in the season, but we see a heightening of cases through the summer period.

PS results from photoactive agents which contain molecules that become energised by the sun's UV rays. If these accumulate under unpigmented skin and are then exposed to UV light, serious damage can occur to skin cells resulting in inflammation,

extreme pain and eventual skin destruction (it goes leathery, scabs and falls off).

For our neighbors in the North Island, the most common cause of PS is the fungus *sporidesmin*, resulting in what is seen as Facial Eczema. This fungal spore causes liver damage which impedes the normal breakdown and excretion of phylloerythrin, a breakdown derivative of chlorophyll (the green pigment in grass). We are fortunate not to have significant levels of *sporidesmin* in the lower SI. We do, however, have plenty of other fungal toxins which can accumulate in dead matter in the base of a pasture sward. These fungal toxins may cause similar liver disease as in facial eczema and are probably the most common cause of PS locally.

Two other common causes of Photosensitivity in our area at this time of year are Summer Turnips and the weed

species Storksbill (this has a green fronded leaf and a tiny pink flower – it gets its name from the long beaklike structure which grows from the flower's center).

Cows with an acute presentation of photosensitivity (often noted on a high UV index sunny day), will present with severe discomfort – shaking head, switching tail, flicking feet, and kicking at belly/udder. They may appear to have colic. A quick check will normally find the white areas of skin to be swollen as compared to the black/brown areas.

Treatment consists of providing **immediate** shade (the faster this is provided the better the outcome for the cow – ideally a roofed shed), anti-inflammatories or corticosteroids and a cow cover and/or a sunblock (FiltaBac) after return to sun exposure.

Common Causes of Photosensitivity in Cattle



Dead matter in the base of a pasture sward can create a fungal toxin.



Summer Turnips



Storkbill weed

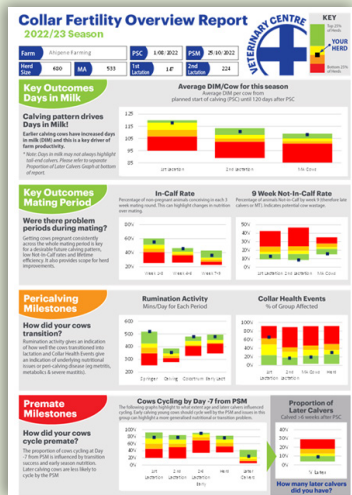
Collar Fertility Overview Reports

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



Last year we launched our Collar Fertility Reports which were a great way for our Allflex Farms to understand areas where they had performed well in AND areas for improvement from the season. Combined with our traditional repro review tools (such as the FFR / Infovet Reports) it is hugely powerful tool to assist with planning for the upcoming season. This seasons reports will be available from early April (they are bulk run after the 1st April) – see the April Mooznews for more details.

NOTE: In order for these reports to run pregnancy test results must be saved into your Allflex systems before this time. If you need a hand with getting this sorted please get in touch with Morgan (our collar tech) at the Waimate clinic.



Veterinary Centre by the Big Blue Cross

- ▶ Oamaru 311 Thames Street, Ph 03 434 5666
- ▶ Timaru 18 Sefton Street, Ph 03 684 5666
- ▶ Waimate 128 High Street, Ph 03 689 7213
- ▶ Ranfurly 16 Charlemont Street, Ph 03 444 1020
- ▶ Palmerston 29 Stronsa Street, Ph 03 465 1291
- ▶ Kurow 32 Bledisloe Street, Ph 03 436 0567
- ▶ Omarama 13 Chain Hills Hwy, Ph 03 438 9868
- ▶ Glenavy 19 Redcliff Road Ph 03 689 8118

FREE PHONE 0800 838 111