



# MOOZNEWS

## *Are those non-returning cows pregnant?*

On average 10-15% of non-returning cows are later found not to be pregnant. These are referred to as phantoms. If you have a herd history of large condition loss post-calving, metritis, high non-cycler rate, high NEFA at calving, low BCS at mating, metritis and BVD you have a higher than average risk. Consider identifying cows from the first 2 weeks of AI and scanning these in early December. Early identification and treatment of these cows will reduce the empty rate. Please contact your Prime vet for further details.

## *Making the Most from Mating*

Recommended mating lengths of 10 weeks are considered optimal to ensure all cows are calved by the 10th of October (if the PSM was the 23rd of October) to retain a healthy calving spread. In this scenario a 10 week mating period would have bull removal occurring on the 1st of January.

The number of lactation days is one of the key economic drivers of your farms profitability. Therefore success of mating should be measured in how quickly they get in calf (3 and 6 week in-calf rate) as well as the empty rate.

The reality of a 10 week mating period is that cows have just over 3 cycles to get back in calf. The average cow has a ~50% chance of getting in calf at each cycle. If given every opportunity she would have a 12.5% chance of being empty after 3 cycles. However if she was to miss the first round of AI she will have a 25% chance of being empty. Likewise if a heat is missed in the second round she has a 50% chance of being empty!

If your 3 week submission rate is tracking below the >90% target, review your heat detection practices immediately and look to get non-cyclers examined and treated. Ideally all eligible non-cyclers (calved >40 days)

should be mated inside of 3 weeks. This involves hormonal treatment by day 11 of mating at the latest. Failure to take proactive action will result in not only a protracted calving spread but also a higher empty rate.

All eligible cows not mated after day 24 of mating should also be examined and treated accordingly.

## Product of the month

**Eclipse is a double combination pour-on for parasite control**



### Eclipse Pour-On

1 litre	\$275 incl
2.5 litres	\$669 incl
5.5 litres	\$1229 incl
(10% extra free)	

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*Just a reminder of our free delivery service. Orders made before 10am - delivery that day. Orders phoned in after 10am - delivery the following day.*



# Bull Management

'Rule of thumb' is to have 1 sound bull to 30 non-pregnant cows. Ideally there should be two teams of bulls and these should be changed every second day.

A bull is capable of mating up to 3 cows a day before semen quality drops. The daily work rate in most herds will be the same after the 3rd week as it is in the 5th week as the number of cows coming on heat on a daily basis will be similar. Like-wise the work rate will be similar between the 6th week and the 8th week.

Therefore in a 700 cow herd which is doing 4 weeks of AI, they will need (based on 3 weeks of mating):

- 700 cows x 82% submission rate x 52% conception rate = 300 pregnant,
- this leaves 400 non pregnant, which requires 13 sound bulls in the herd at all times
- In a 700 cow herd which is doing 6 weeks of AI, they will need:
- 700 cows with 65% 6 Week-In-Calf Rate = 455 pregnant
- This leaves 245 non-pregnant, which requires 8 sound bulls in the herd at all times.

Bull numbers in general can be reduced by about 40% at the end of each cycle. Remember to ensure that bulls have been both vaccinated and tested clear for BVD.

# The Cost of a Missed Heat

Poor heat detection in the 1st or 2nd cycle (and 3rd if you do extended AI) can be very costly.

A missed heat in the first or second cycle will result in 21 days lost milk in the next season. This might have a milk value of ~\$180 (1.6kg MS/Day x 21 x \$6).

**Additionally** to this a missed heat in a three cycle mating period will increase the risk of the cow being empty by:

- 12.5% if heat missed in first cycle
- 37.5% if heat missed in second cycle
- 87.5% if heat missed (or bull issue) in third cycle

With cost of an empty versus pregnant value being \$1000, the average cost associated with increased empty risk due to missed heats are \$125, \$375, \$875 respectively.



# 2nd Round Of Mating

The second 21 days of your AI period is just as important as your first. Staff motivation can however drop meaning heat detection rates can reduce.

- Heat detection aids (K-mars, ScratchE's) will improve heat detection sensitivity if scrutiny of tail paint drops.
- If using tail paint use a different colour to paint cows inseminated in the 2nd round of AI.
- Refer to your AI chart if in doubt about whether a cow is a return. If she was last inseminated 18 -24 days ago there is a good chance she is a genuine return.
- As mating continues the number of cows in sexually active groups (SAG's) reduces. Ensure cows which are AI'd are returned immediately to the herd to form new SAG's to encourage tail paint loss in new cows coming on heat.
- Use paddock checks to increase sensitivity. These should be done 2 hours after the morning and evening shift

## Christmas Promotion



With qualifying purchases of Arrest C, Eclipse, Eprinex, Genesis & Cydectin, 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**

## Effect of lameness on reproduction

Lame cows continue to be among the three main problems we are seeing on our clients farms together with mastitis and infertility. Lame cows are clearly visible but often not treated promptly.

At this time of year with peak milk production and AB well under way the economic effect of lame cows can be huge due to lost milk production, lost body weight and the fact that lame cows are less likely to cycle on time.

Lame cows are half as likely to conceive and take on average 40 days longer to conception, compared to their healthy herd mates.

If you need help with lameness contact Luke or Ryan at The Veterinary Centre.



## Dating Your Mating

A number of farms have elected to run bulls with lower breeding worth cows this year. To enable us to provide the greatest accuracy with your pregnancy dates we ask that you still record cows which appear to have a natural mating in Minda/Protrack once or twice a week.

## Why is milk production down?



Most farms across the board in our area have been reporting production figures being back 8-10% on last year.

With the dull overcast days and consistent rain showers, the measured dry matter percentages have been down despite the feed value being good.

When feeds for NZ pasture fed cows drop below 15%, the total potential daily dry matter intake becomes compromised. We have seen a range of pastures analysed coming back between 10-14%. Pre-mowing may help if reasonable wilting can be achieved and grass quality down to the base of the sward is still good.

Typically in these same conditions measured B12 levels will also be low. B12 deficiency primarily reduces appetite. Other considerations are high parasite burden and extended periods of low dietary phosphate.

## Timely Reminders & handy hints for November



- Pink eye in calves - We are coming up to the Pink Eye season in calves. A single dose of Piliguard vaccine given 3-6 weeks before the risk period will significantly reduce the risk of an outbreak.
- Covexin 10 - If you have unexplained deaths in young stock every year despite using 5 in 1 vaccine, you should consider using Covexin 10 in 1 vaccine, which provides additional protection against two other major clostridial diseases - Clostridium sordelli and Clostridium perfringens type A.
- Last year we saw a case of several acute deaths in calves which had been worm drenched through the milk. This is a very timely reminder, not to add worm drench, especially levamisole or abamectin, to milk. Each season we see 2-3 cases of either levamisole toxicity or abamectin toxicity in calves under 100 kg.
- Polioencephalomalacia (P.E.) - This nervous condition of calves is now the most common disease of calves that we see over the summer months. Polioencephalomalacia (PE or CCN) is considered to be associated with a change of diet from a fibrous stalky diet to a lush, rapidly growing grass diet. High sulphur intakes have also been incriminated. P.E. is a vitamin B1 deficiency. Clinically, calves with P.E. show nervous signs. They may appear blind, staggery and develop muscle tremors, before becoming recumbent, with severe convulsions and die. We traditionally see P.E. cases from late November, peaking late Dec/early Jan.

Individual calves, if treated early enough with injectable Vitamin B1, respond well and make a full recovery. In the face of an 'outbreak', it is well worth considering the prophylactic use of an oral drench of Vitamin B1, for the entire mob of calves.

# Uddernews



Hope fully mating is progressing well and drafting cows for AI is not disrupting the milking routine too much.

Although the priority for the next four weeks is necessarily on heat detection this on most farms will only involve

one or two people. For the rest of the team milking needs to continue as smoothly as possible to avoid the almost predictable spike in the BMSCC we see on many farms during AI. Keep a close eye on the tanker docket and

encourage all of the milkers to follow it. A graph of the BMSCC produced weekly is often very motivating for the milking team.

Common issues we see during AI

- Poor teatspray application
- Increased row times due to slower exit times can result in over milking
- Dirty exit ways (cows pooing at drafting gates) - cows' teats on average are open for one hour after the cups are removed.

## Interpreting Herd Test Results

Many herd tests have been completed and hopefully you have studied these and identified your high SCC cows but before you decide to treat these cows look for what might be the underlying factors that resulted in these cows getting infected. There have been many studies looking at treating subclinically infected cows and how to get the best economic return from treatment. What is apparent is if the rate of transmission of infection is high the economic return from treating cows diminishes. For this reason look for reasons that infection could be going from cow to cow and address these. These reasons are almost always associated with milking.

- Vacuum and pulsation
- State of the rubberware
- Cluster alignment
- Cluster attachment
- Cluster removal
- Over and under milking
- Teatspray application



## Day 24 of Mating – Have all the cows been put up?

If a farm has done early intervention with non-cyclers during the first 3 weeks of mating, then by day 24, in theory, the whole herd will have been mated. This is seldom ever the case!

There will be a mixture of unmated cows by this date which will include cystic ovaries, late calvers, missed heats, pyometras and genuine anoestrus cows.

If you have a significant number of these cows it is worth getting them scanned or palpated at day 24-26 and provide them with specific treatments.

## BVD Bulletin



With mating well under way it is an important time to consider the BVD status of your herd as BVD has a negative effects on reproduction. This year the majority of our herds are on the LIC bulk milk monitor package for BVD. As we start getting positive results coming through we are often asked how we go about identifying and removing PI animals from a herd. PI animals are usually the poorest producing cows in a herd. This means you can usually find them by identifying the bottom 20% of producers and either blood testing them or having them tested for BVD at herd testing. The whole process is usually easy to perform. If you wish to discuss BVD control in your herd don't hesitate to contact one of our vets.

*“the leading light in animal health”*

**Veterinary Centre Oamaru**  
**Veterinary Centre Waimate**  
**Veterinary Centre Palmerston**  
**Veterinary Centre Glenavy**  
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