OCTOBER 2022

Veterinary Centre MoozNews

Setting up for Mating 2022

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – **VETERINARY CENTRE** Oamaru

The count down to start of mating is moving fast. A lot of the factors which determine the success this year are already in motion. If you haven't already, make sure that bull requirements have been calculated, sourced and are certified BVD free (we have seen 4 herd breakdowns already this season). Trolleys and facilities for AI techs and drafting gates need to be in working order. Heat detection training and consistency to approach when more than one staff member detecting (we offer heat detection training). To improve conception rates, look at the strategic use of Multimin (or the Marks-Min (think Multimin plus B12). This should be given 3-4 weeks before PSM (heifers and cows).

Everything should be done to promote the pre-mate cycling rate. Identify light cows (cows under BCS 4 and heifers under 4.5) and look at improving energy balance by either OAD milking for 3-4 weeks and/or preferential feeding these high-risk cows. We often see restricted intakes in early October while second round covers are below optimal – ensure supplements are available and calculate requirements to fill deficits. Where iodine deficiency exists (most of our farms that don't use iodine based teatspray), look to supplement (Stock iodine) over the next four weeks.

Achieving >90% submission rate is paramount to improving 6 week in calf rate. Once within 9 days of mating take action with early calving non-cycling cows (essentially these are your August calvers). The later September calving non-cyclers should be treated 10-11 days into mating to ensure they are still mated within 3 weeks. To set this up it is important to be able to identify August versus September calvers (cows should be calved a minimum of 40-45 days before treatment). Pre-mate tailpaint needs to be on for a minimum of 21 days before intended CIDR insertion to accurately identify non-cyclers.

ANOESTRUS COW TREATMENT AND SYNCHRONY

Day -10 AM	Day -3 AM	Day -1 PM	Day 0 AM
Insert CIDR Inject GnRH	Remove CIDR Inject PG Inject eCG	Inject GnRH	Fixed time AI 8-20 hours after GnRH injection

Cows observed on heat prior to the final GnRH injection should be mated and removed from the programme.

In this Issue

Best Practice Set up for Non-cycler Interventions

10-5 days before MSD
- Treat non-cycling cows calved more than 45 days.

5-10 days after MSD
- Treat remaining non-cycling cows calved more than 40 days.

Day 24-26 after MSD
- Examine all cows that are yet to be mated.

How is your herd tracking pre-mate?

Count cycling cows.

Aim for ...

- **Day - 15 – 70% cycled**
- **Day - 10 – 75% cycled**
- **PSM – 85% cycled**

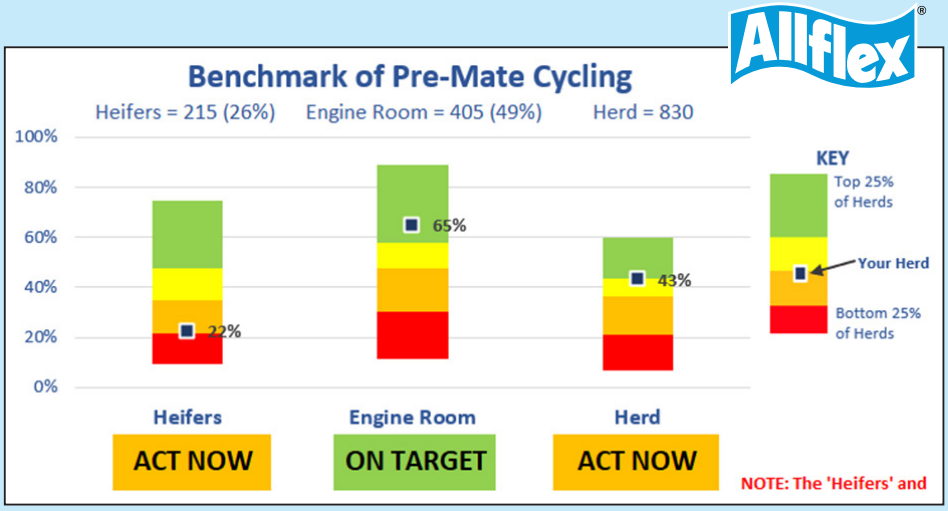
Pre-Mate Cycling Rates – How are we trending in 2022?

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

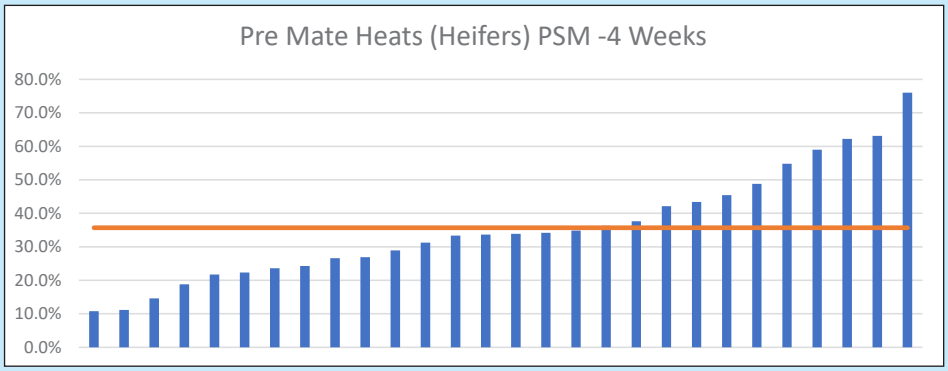
This season we have set up a package to monitor the pre-mate cycling rates of our Allflex Collar Farms leading into mating. These benchmarking packages allow us to compare pre-mate cycling rates, beginning 4 weeks before the PSM, to what our collar farms achieved last year. The benchmarked data therefore contains "real", "achievable" targets that their neighbours have achieved (rather than an unattainable goal!). The reports also look at monitoring (milk protein and rumination rates) that can aid in assessing the energy balance of herd.

In the example A the key area of concern are the heifers, with only 22% of the herd having cycled less than 4 weeks from mating. Top herds were achieving cycling rates up to 40% higher than this at the same stage!

Across the practice the trends show that cycling rates in "Engine Room" Cows (3-7YO Early Calver) are up slightly, but heifers (like in the example above) are down. This makes sense, as we know that the majority of heifers calved down in the extreme weather events during August. Endometritis rates have also been up across the practice in this group. The variation across the practice with heifers is quite marked, with a difference of over 60% in the cycling rates between our top and bottom performers (see the spread B right).



Example A



Spreadsheet B

What are things you can do NOW to impact on getting cows cycling!

Knowing where they are sitting has allowed the farms to start making proactive changes to help improve cycling rates NOW, rather than in four weeks when options are much more limited. One of the keys to improving cycling rates is ensuring that the herd is on a rising plane of nutrition heading into mating (see the milk protein article in this edition). To help achieve this we can look at three areas:

INCREASE ENERGY INPUTS	DECREASE ENERGY OUTPUTS	MAXIMISE HEALTH
• Priority Mob Feeding • Consider additional supplements • Target high quality pasture / lower entry covers • Split Heifer Mob	• Reduced walking for non-cycler mob • OAD Mob • Late Calvers OAD until cycled/ mated	• Metricheck (if not already done) • Minerals (pre-mate bloods +/- multimin) • Eprinex / Cydectin Drench • Monitor Mastitis and Lameness levels

In the first example the act of splitting the heifers into their own mob (allowing increased Energy Inputs) has already shown benefits to cycling rates. In smaller mobs it appears that heifers don't get bullied out of eating opportunities and therefore have the chance of getting on a positive energy plane.

Another option that can be started now is to keep late calvers (typically from late September) on OAD until they cycle (decrease energy outputs). We consistently see increases in 6WICR's in late calvers that stay in the OAD mob 20-30+% higher than previously (and with reduced not in calf rates).

We're also seeing herds using Multimin (targeted to heifers or blanket across the herd) and Eprinex, both interventions to help maximise health that have shown improved repro outcomes.

Even if you don't have collars please get in touch with your prime vet to discuss opportunities to act now to improve cycling rates. We can help you problem shoot some of the common issues we're seeing, or look at your own data if you have monitored pre-mate heats via traditional tail paint methods.

HeatCHECK – Optimising heat detection on your farm before it's too late!

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

DairyNZ estimates that heat detection is a major factor in poor reproductive performance in over 30% of dairy farms. Unfortunately our ability to assess this has traditionally relied on retrospective data - either return intervals or scanning data, which means that we only find out when it's too late to make a difference.

Last season, with this in mind, the Veterinary Centre set up a trial to see if we could develop a real-time test for assessing the accuracy of heat detection - something that would allow us to make changes at the start of the AI period BEFORE any damage had been done. From this trial we were able to use data from our Allflex Collar farms alongside ovary scanning to develop a cow-side, real-time test that gave an objective "score" around heat detection. This score was based on an overall average likelihood that each of the cows put up for AI would be in an 'optimal mating window' (vs going off, or completely not on).

We then launched the test as part of "HeatCHECK" last season on 22 farms. For the HeatCHECK package we:

- Scanned the ovaries of all cows presented for AI on the day PLUS looked at heat aid activation (full, partial, or minimal) to give the farm an objective score
- With the score in mind we then worked through the known risk factors (from the DairyNZ InCalf programme) to look at areas of improvement or change
- A plan was then developed with the farmer for any changes that may be indicated, and a report (including photos of cows that were a yes / no / maybe) distributed

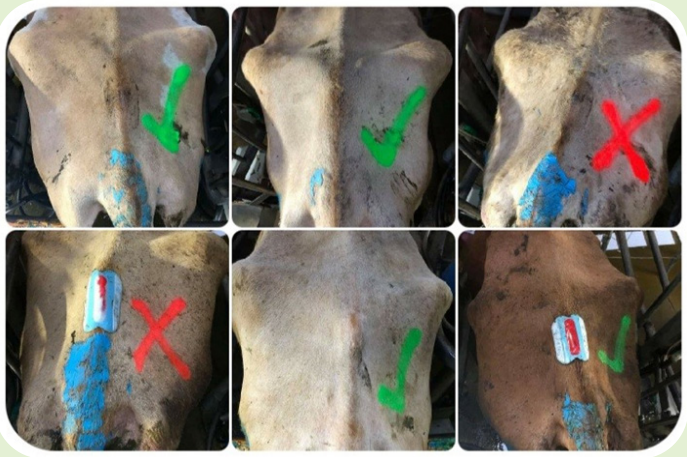
Some of the key findings last season were:

- Incorrect Placement of Heat Aids
- Tailpaint too thick!!!!
- Tailpaint too far down tail
- Tailpaint too far forward
- Not putting up short returns (especially on places with poor heat detection)
- Putting heataids in the hollow

We were thrilled with the buy-in to the process from the farms involved. Many farms made positive changes off the back of this process, and these changes had huge impacts for the season's mating performance.

Following on from the success of the pilot roll-out we are able to offer the HeatCHECK package across our whole practice this season. Involvement is simple – we just need to come out and scan the cows drafted for AI that day. It's essential that the person doing the picking of the cows is present at the visit so they get the instant feedback (and so a collaborative plan can be put in place). The cost per farm varies slightly depending on the number of cows on heat, but is typically around the $400 mark.

Whether you've got worries about your heat detection, want peace of mind, or have someone new on the stand it's likely you'll benefit from HeatCHECK. Get in touch with your prime vet to book in a visit.



Product of the month
Pre-mate trace element supplementation

	MULTIMIN	MARKS-MIN
Trace Element Ingredients (Multimin ACVM A009374; Marks-Min ZMSC with B12 ACVM A011687)	Zinc, Copper, Manganese, Selenium	Zinc, Copper, Manganese, Selenium **and B12**
Dose Rate (per 100kg)	1mL per 100kg (5mL per 500kg)	1.5mL per 100kg (7.5mL per 500kg)
Dose per Pack (500kg Cow)	100 Doses	66 Doses
Dose Cost (per 500kg Cow)	**$3.80** + GST	**$4.33** + GST
Application	Sub-cut injection 3 to 4 weeks prior to mating	
Zn - Zinc	200mg/5ml Dose	200 mg/7.5ml Dose
Mn - Manganese	50mg/5ml Dose	50mg/7.5ml Dose
Cu - Copper	75mg/5ml Dose	75mg/7.5ml Dose
Se - Selenium	25mg /5ml Dose	24.75 mg/7.5ml Dose
B12	none	10.5mg/7.5ml Dose

Note: Prolaject B12 2000 Selenium – 5ml cow dose is 88.6c +GST

BVD Bulletin

Andrew Muir BVSc BSc (Hons)
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

- Bulk Milk BVD results are starting to come through and we will contact you directly if there is any virus (a PI) found in your herd.
- If there is virus in your herd you want to remove the infected animal from the herd ASAP before PSM so that it doesn't have an effect on pregnancy rates or cause the formation of more PI calves. This can be done at herd testing or by blood testing.
- Ensure that all bulls that are going out with heifers and cows are blood tested negative and fully vaccinated before joining. Ask to see a certificate from the agent.
- If vaccinating for BVD the booster dose should be going into stock now.

Hamish Newton BVSc, PhD
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

UdderNEWS

Calving is (almost) over and the herd testing trucks have been getting around the district for the last three weeks. Your BMSCC will be close to the lowest it is going to get for the season, so now the aim is to reduce the rate which it increases. Generally somatic cell counts increase with stage of lactation and age of a cow, but research done back in 1979 showed that if cows were separated into groups or mobs based on infection status (you can use somatic cell counts for this) there is little change in the somatic cell count in the uninfected cows as lactation progresses. If you have the option of running your herd split on the results of the first herd test you will keep your clean cows clean by isolating them from the infected cows. The simplest way to do this is decide on what size the "second herd" is going to be e.g. 200 cows and put the 200 cows with the highest SCC in that herd.

Mastitis will now mainly be spread from cow to cow in the milking shed, rather than by picking up infections from the springer or colostrum paddocks. By having a "clean" first herd that is milked before a "dirty" second herd you reduces the chance of new infections occurring in the clean herd – as the most likely source of infection (the cows in the dirty mob) are milked after the clean herd have left the shed.

Regardless of whether you can split herds on cell count or not, teat-spraying every teat, of every cow, at every milking must continue. For those of you with automatic teat sprayers please don't assume it is working. Check the alignment and that the sensors are not covered in dirt.

Another thing that will increase the rate of spread of infection is poor "teat health". The cups have been on the cows now for enough milkings to get a very good idea of how the machine is interacting with your cows' teats and if there is over milking happening regularly. Below is a picture of teat end with hyperkeratosis from either over milking or excessive vacuum. If more than 1 in 10 cows have 1 teat looking like the teat in the picture we need to check the vacuum, pulsation ratios, and milking routine.

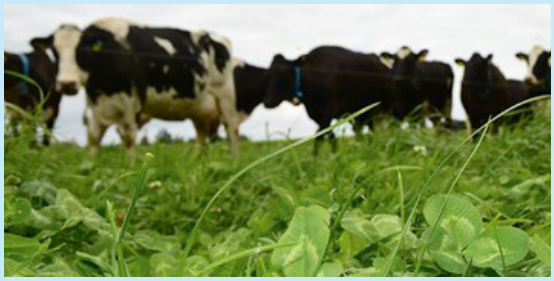
Bloat season is here right now

Luke Smyth BVSc – **VETERINARY CENTRE** Oamaru

This is due to the grazing of rapidly growing high protein, low fibre second round pasture which generally has an increased clover content.

Risk factors for bloat:

- Pasture swards where clover content is greater than 30%.
- Dew or rain often increases the risk of bloat due to a reduction in saliva production which increases the viscosity or stickiness of the rumen fluid.
- Short swards.
- Warm windy conditions, especially in the evenings.
- Jersey cows.
- Young cows.
- Potassium to sodium ratios in pasture greater than 20 (this can easily be tested for at Feed Labs - known as the bloat index).



Factors which will reduce bloat risk include:

- Feeding longer length pasture, having higher pre and post grazing residuals
- Feeding fibre such as long chopped silage, hay, or straw before introduction to a new paddock or break.
- Preferentially grazing the older herd on at risk pastures - older cows have adapted grazing behaviour i.e., they do not gorge themselves as readily.
- Feeding salt at 30gm per cow per day.
- Consider using Ionophores such as Rumensin and Rumenox. These products provide bloat protection with the bonus that the animals feed conversion efficiency increases, enhancing milk production, improving daily weight gain, and conserving more body condition for the same feed intake. There are a number of forms available including water additives and capsules, so they are very versatile.

- Water trough treatment with bloat oil is usually effective at controlling bloat. However, it does carry some risk as it relies on the regular intake of water by cattle. Water consumption is reduced during wet conditions just when pasture is more likely to cause bloat. Also, bloat oil stains the water so cattle will preferentially drink from alternative water sources.

Heifer Mating – Getting the best bang for your buck

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

AB vs. Bulls

AB and natural mating are two options for mating heifers. Yearling heifers represent the highest genetic merit cows in your herd so mating them to AB is one way to speed up genetic gain.

Having the right infrastructure and facilities to manage heat detection are key when deciding if heifer AB can work for you.

If using AB, consider one of the synchrony mating programmes below:

- Single-shot PG – Mate to detected heat until day 6. Inject all unmated heifers on day 6. Mate to detected heat for a further 5 days. Cost approx. ~$3.50/heifer (Single Shot is based on average price for a group if just 70% are injected).
- Double-shot PG – 1st injection 14 days prior to start of mating. 2nd injection day before mating. Mate to detected heat for 5-6 days. Cost approx. ~$10/heifer.
- CIDR Synchrony – 9 day CIDR programme. 3 x yardings involved. Fixed time AI on day 9 (usually around lunchtime). Cost approx. ~$28.15 plus GST/heifer (plus vet time).

Cow BCS Going Into Mating

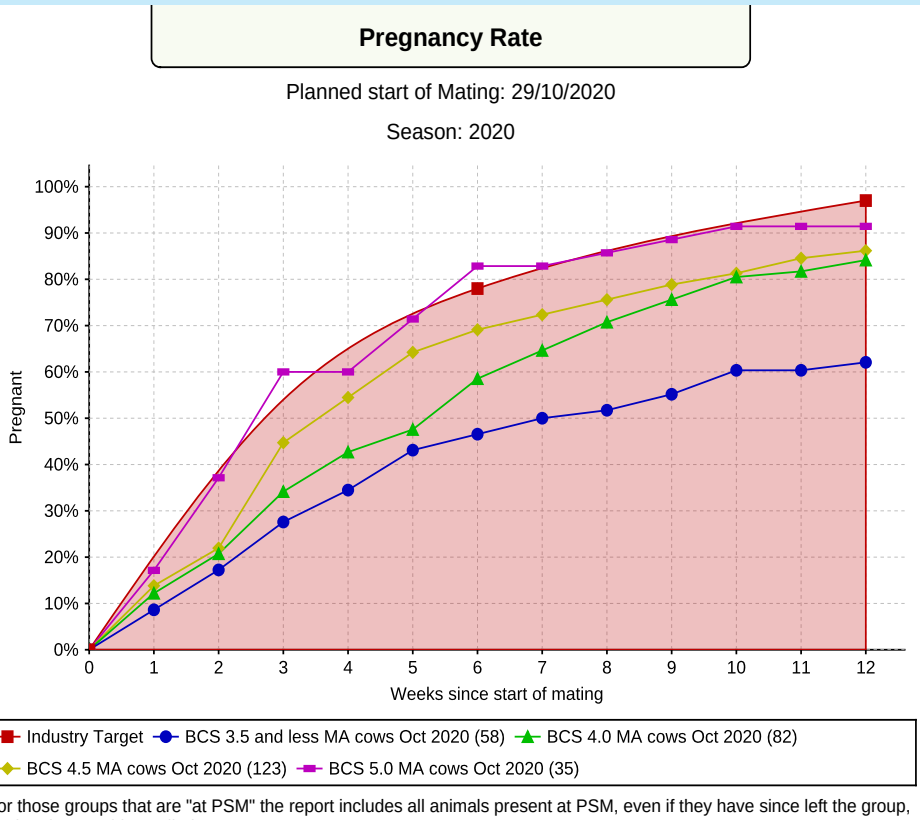
Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – **VETERINARY CENTRE** Oamaru

Cow BCS going into mating is one of the biggest determinants of mating success. The greatest factor governing herd body condition going into mating is the condition at calving.

We know that from DairyNZ studies and from the National Herd Fertility study (conducted locally), that optimal reproductive performance will be achieved in mature cows with a BCS of 4.5-5.0 and in first lactation heifers with a BCS of 5.0-5.5. Aim to have no more than 15% of cows below BCS 4.0 at mating with an ideal average score of 4.7.

The herd profile below, came from a local herd and would be ideal going into mating.

In the next month concentrate on improving the bottom end of your herd. Cows below 4.0 and heifers below 4.5 should receive preferential feeding. Do you know your herd profile?



For those groups that are "at PSM" the report includes all animals present at PSM, even if they have since left the group, died, or been sold or culled.
Excluded are animals that had already died, or been sold or culled before PSM.

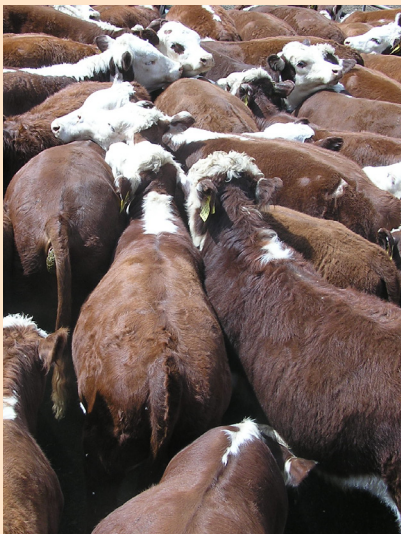
Graph shows pregnant cows with a conception date prior to 12 weeks after PSM.

Bull Mating Requirements

Start sourcing bulls NOW. These should be blood tested free of BVD and vaccinated against BVD.

A 700 cow herd with an average reproductive performance – i.e. 82% 3 Week Submission Rate and 52% Conception rate and a 65% 6 Week In-Calf rate,

- if doing a 4 week AI period would need 14 sound bulls in the herd at all times, plus another 14 to rotate and possibly 5 to back up.
- if doing a 6 week AI period would need 8 sound bulls in the herd at all times, plus another 8 to rotate and possibly 3 to back up.
- a good idea is to run a marker bull – e.g. a Hereford with the mastitis/lame mob throughout the AI period to minimise the need to heat detect in this small mob.



Tracecheck Feedback

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Over the last few weeks many of our clients have blood profiled their herd for trace mineral leading into mating.

Three brief observations;

- We often see seasonal variability with Vit B12 levels. The B12 levels tested in the last week have been a lot lower this season than last year. As we head into the lusher, high protein, rapid growth phase of second round grass this will tend to drives levels lower again. Where farms are testing low, a strategic injection of Prolaject B12 at the start of October will lift levels for 4 weeks. Also consider using the new Marks-Min ZMSC with B12 injection which contains B12, Selenium, Copper, Zinc and Manganese.
- Low Zinc levels have been seen in a large percentage of farms. Zinc is both important in cow immune function (i.e. slow clearing of uterine infections) and successful conception. Additional supplementation of chelated Zinc or strategic use of Multimin 2-4 weeks from mating may improve the reproductive odds.
- Low Iodine levels are being seen in many mobs, especially those that no longer use Iodine based teat sprays. The best way of supplementing Iodine is using 10% Stock Iodine, added daily to your dos-a-tron at 25mls/100 cows. Iodine is an important part of driving healthy metabolism and is key for producing good heat expression, conception and early embryonic survival.

Prolaject B12 2000
ACVM A006536

Stock Iodine 10%

Multimin
ACVM A009374

Marks-Min ZMSC with B12
ACVM A011687

Minimising Coccidiosis Outbreaks

Jess McKenzie BVSc(Dist.) – **VETERINARY CENTRE** Waimate

Coccidiosis is a parasitic disease which primarily occurs in young cattle between 3-8 months of age. Occasionally the disease is seen in animals as young as 4 weeks. Coccidia are widespread in the environment, however disease only occurs if large numbers of the parasite are ingested or if their resistance is lowered due to stress, poor nutrition, concurrent disease, or heavy worm burdens. Coccidia can survive for long periods on pasture - grazing calves on the same paddocks each year increases the risk due to significant build-up of oocysts on paddocks, especially in wet conditions.

Calves present with diarrhoea typically containing mucous and blood. They frequently strain to pass faeces, swish their tails, are often off their food and appear uncomfortable and unhappy. Faecal staining on the back of the thighs is often evident. Affected calves lose weight rapidly due to gut damage and growth rates can suffer for months after the disease. Most calf meals contain a coccidiostat which prevents the infection becoming established – however the protective effect relies on calves consuming about 1kg of meal/day. Often mobs are eating more than this **on average** but there are always some calves that eat less than others.

Treatment is with Toltrox (as a single oral dose) or injectable Amphoprim (antibiotic) and are usually effective, especially when instigated early in the disease. History and clinical signs are often enough for a presumptive diagnosis, however faecal samples are required to confirm and are relatively quick and cheap to perform.

Turbo Initial is also a good product to keep in mind – a dual action double combination drench (Eprinomectin and Levamisole) with added Diclazural for coccidia control. Post-weaning off calf meal, some calves will become very susceptible to coccidiosis. Calves at risk can be strategically treated with Turbo Initial once at 18-20 days after weaning off meal. This allows them time to establish an infection and gain some immunity, then treating the infection before it can cause disease.

Product of the Month
TURBO® Initial

Turbo® Initial is an oral drench specifically designed for weaned calves. It provides broad worm parasite coverage as well as helping to protect against coccidiosis. This bridges the 'susceptibility' gap after calves come off coccidiostat-treated meal and before they develop natural coccidiosis immunity. Turbo Initial ACVM A011703

Active ingredients:

- 2g/L Eprinomectin
- 80g/L Levamisole HCl
- 10g/L Diclazuril
- 4.4g/L Cobalt
  (min. 33.6g/L Cobalt disodium EDTA)
- 1g/L Selenium
  (2.4g/L Sodium selenate)

Dose rate:
1ml/10kg

Withholding periods:
35 days meat.
Not to be used on bobby calves.

2.5L $749 Incl GST
$2.35 plus gst per 90 kg calf

Animal Health – Tips Post-Weaning

Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc - **VETERINARY CENTRE** Waimate

As we get closer to weaning calves there are a few things to consider over the coming months:

- **Clostridial disease** – most calves should have had their first shot of Covexin 10, make sure they have a booster within 4-12 weeks to protect against sudden unexplained deaths in their first year.

Multine 5-in-1 Plain ACVM A000934 – Multine 5-in-1 B12 ACVM A011311
Multine 5-in-1 Selenised ACVM A000935 – Multine 5-in-1 B12 Selenised ACVM A011766

Covexin 10 ACVM A009028

- **When to wean** – calves should have reached minimum target live-weights e.g. 70kg for Jerseys; 80 kg for XB; 90 kg for Friesians – but these will depend on the rearing system used – importantly they should be consuming an average of 1kg/day of good quality calf meal. Keep weaned calves eating 1-2 kg for at least 2 – 3 weeks before slowly decreasing the amount of meal fed.

- **Worms** – as calves begin eating pasture they are exposed to infective larvae – set up a drenching plan to start once pasture has been a significant part of their diet for 3 weeks. Oral drenches at 4 week intervals are preferable, and always use combination drenches with levamisole to avoid problems with resistant Cooperia. Lungworm can become an issue in summer but is susceptible to most drenches. Discuss with your vet whether a triple or double drench will be suitable – or a coccidia targeting drench such as the combination Turbo Initial. Take care with drenching milk fed calves – don't add drench to the milk or pull them off the feeder to drench. This can lead to drench by-passing the rumen and potential toxicity. Make sure you know how much your calves weigh so you can dose accurately, and wait till calves are 100kg+ before using abamectin drenches.

- **Minerals** – copper, selenium and B12 are all important minerals for young growing calves. Copper can be given by bullet or injection – for younger animals a 10g bullet in January is a safe option and will give 3 – 4 months of copper supplementation.

CopperMax ACVM A009469
CopaCaps 10g ACVM A005259
Prolaject B12 2000 plus Selenium ACVM A006903

Selenium and B12 can be given in combination e.g. 2ml Prolaject B12 2000 + Se in December, followed up with a long acting selenium injection in 1-2 months to cover calves through autumn and into winter.

- **Coccidiosis** – this parasite can decrease growth, cause scours & deaths from one month of age, especially on paddocks used for calves for several years. Calf meals contain protective coccidiostats – but calves must be consuming 1kg/d. Toltrox is a one off oral drench solely for coccidia that could be used as calves are weaned off meal, or earlier if the property has a history of coccidia, particularly if the calves are not consuming enough meal.

Toltrox ACVM A011401

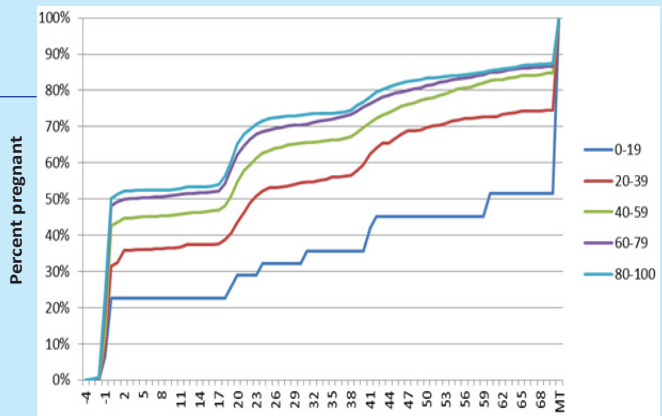
- **Monitoring growth rates** – regularly weighing your calves (every 1-3 months) and responding to those not meeting targets is the best way to ensure they continue gaining weight post-weaning, and are on track to reach targets as they enter your herd in two years time. At 6 months of age they should be 30% of their expected mature liveweight, at 9 months 40%, and at 12 months of age 50% of mature liveweight.

Backing Winners
– Which Cows Should Be Treated with a CIDR?

Our Veterinary Centre research team examined 8,500 non-cycling cows treated from 64 farms in our practice.

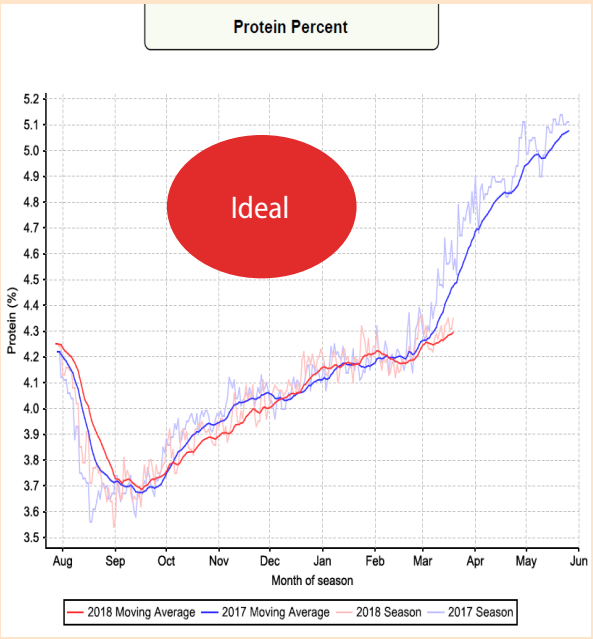
This is the biggest single study conducted in NZ on CIDR outcomes at a commercial level. From this study we were able to identify the optimal number of days-in-milk when treated, best time to treat relative to PSM and the optimal age of treatment. Overall the average first service CR was 47% which is extremely good for cows being mated on the first oestrus for the season. Cows under five years had the best response. Optimal first service conception rate occurred from cows >45 Days in Milk (DIM)and optimal MT rates in cows >40 DIM.

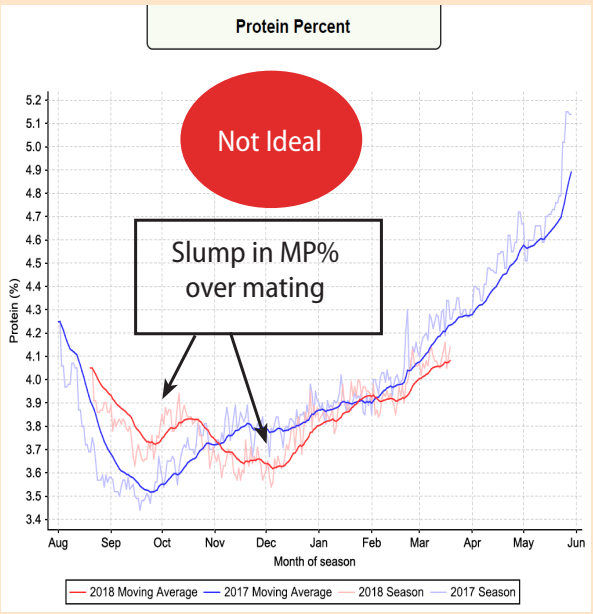
Relationship between Days since calving at treatment and Reproductive Outcome



Having cows 'on a rising plane'

At a herd level your milk protein percentage is quite a good indicator of energy status of the herd. For most herds the lowest point in milk protein % is seen in mid/late September and from here ideally you will see a steady gradual rise through the rest of the season (referred to as the Nike tick). A curve going down or with wild fluctuations in October/November indicates cows are likely to be in periods of negative energy balance and this will have a harmful effect on mating. Ensure that cows energy requirements are met daily over the next two months.





Using hormones isn't natural!?

Did you know - all healthy cows that re-enter a cycling state require the same orchestrated sequence of hormones that are used in a CIDR programme. Hormonal programmes just assist those anoestrus cows back into the 'normal state' of their herd mates.

Tailpaint Regime for Identification of Non-Cyclers

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Getting the best results takes good planning. Where applicable back the cows likely to give the highest returns. From our studies the best return comes from non-cycling cows calved at least 40-45 days before treatment. The following is a tail paint regime to best set up a non-cycler programme.

- Planned Start of Mating (PSM) for cows - 24th October
- Mark all cows (as they calve) with a Yellow stripe over the hips that calve after the 4th of September. If they calve after the 25th of September give them **TWO** Yellow stripes.
- 35 days before the PSM (~19th of September) all cows that had calved up to the 4th of September (Blue and Green Hip Stripe cows) to get Red Tailpaint on Tailhead.
  All cows that calved after this date get Yellow Tailpaint on the Tailhead.
- Touch up every 5 days. As cows cycle repaint them in Green
- 9-5 days before PSM all remaining Red Tailpaint cows are eligible for CIDR treatment
- 1 day (24hrs) before PSM repaint all cycled cows with Green.
- As cows are mated paint them Blue
- 8-11 day into mating all remaining Yellow Tailpant cows with **ONE** hip stripe are eligible of CIDR treatment
- 21 Days after the PSM all second-round inseminations to be painted Orange.
- 24 days into mating all outstanding non-mated cows (including the Yellow **TWO** hip stripe – very late calvers) are eligible for hormonal treatment.

Introducing

Will James BVetMed MRCVS
VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

Ki Ora everyone,

I have been working in the UK for 3 years after graduating from the RVC in 2019, before realising I was missing out on all the fun of the New Zealand lifestyle and calving seasons! I am a keen sportsman and enjoy the outdoors especially hunting and fishing but will try my hand at anything, I have already joined the Waimate squash club as it seems like the entire team of Waimate Vet Clinic!

My main experience with dairy cows is often the individual cow medicine and treatment of a sick animal. I am planning to improve my understanding of whole herd management and further my knowledge on pasture based systems and it seems like New Zealand is the perfect place to learn this. Another area of interest is trace element sampling and supplementation so I'm sure I'll be annoying everyone with all my questions! But, looking forward to getting stuck in and meeting everyone!