



The magazine of Cambridge Vets

*treating all animals large and small*

April 2019

## Golf Day 2019



### Friday 10th May 2019

At Cambridge Golf Club—9 holes only  
(\$10 Green fee applies) Tee off from 9:30 am until 1pm  
This is a really fun social occasion for farm clients.

- Multitude of prizes, not just for the golf
  - Catch up with friends
  - All day BBQ and liquid refreshments
  - Alan Bremner Memorial trophy
  - No gumboots allowed on course!
- Book at the clinic now with your membership number.

**To comply with the Golf Club requirements, we will no longer be able to have alcohol out on the course. A full range of Refreshments will be available in the clubhouse all day.**

### *Refugia as a means to delay drench Resistance*

Drench Resistance is a fact of life. It is when susceptible worm populations survive a correctly applied, standard dose of worm drench or anthelmintic. The worms are not killed by the drench but carry on to breed and pass on their resistant genes to their offspring. With time these resistant worms may become dominant in the population, and it is well known that resistance of some kind is present on most New Zealand farms.

#### **What is Refugia?**

Refugia when put into practice, involves making sure some susceptible worms are left inside the animals to reproduce. The idea is to create a refuge for worms so that susceptible worms remain in the population and a reservoir of susceptible worms will build up on the pasture and out number the resistant larvae on the pasture.

#### **Methods to achieve Refugia**

1. Not drench all the animals in a mob every time.
2. Put undrenched ewes on pasture previously grazed by drenched lambs. The susceptible worms shed by the ewes dilute the population of resistant parasites left behind by the lambs.
3. Drench the mob and return them to the same infected pasture for a week before they go on to clean pasture. This ensures that susceptible worms have already been deposited on that pasture.
4. Draft out tail end 2 tooth's and graze these undrenched with the lambs. The 2 tooth's benefit from the better feed without drenching and no lambs need be left undrenched to create refugia.



# Repro Benchmarking

It was not a fantastic year for repro results. The 2 graphs summarize results from our Infonet clients.

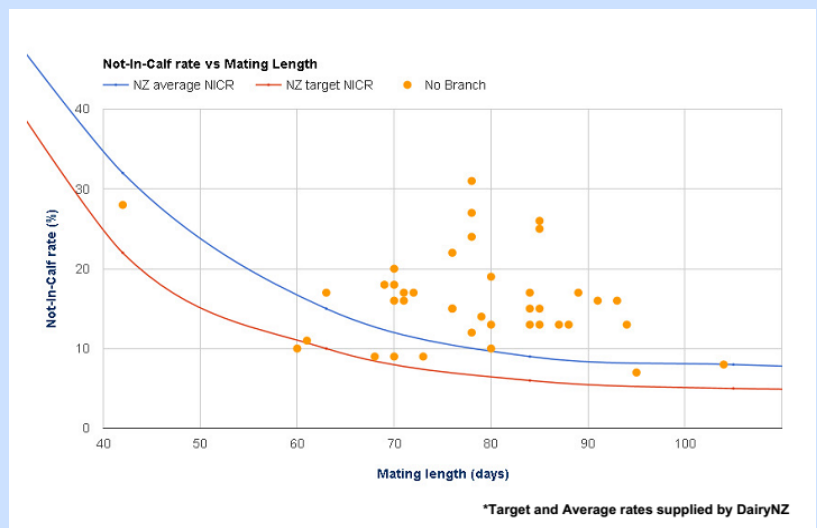
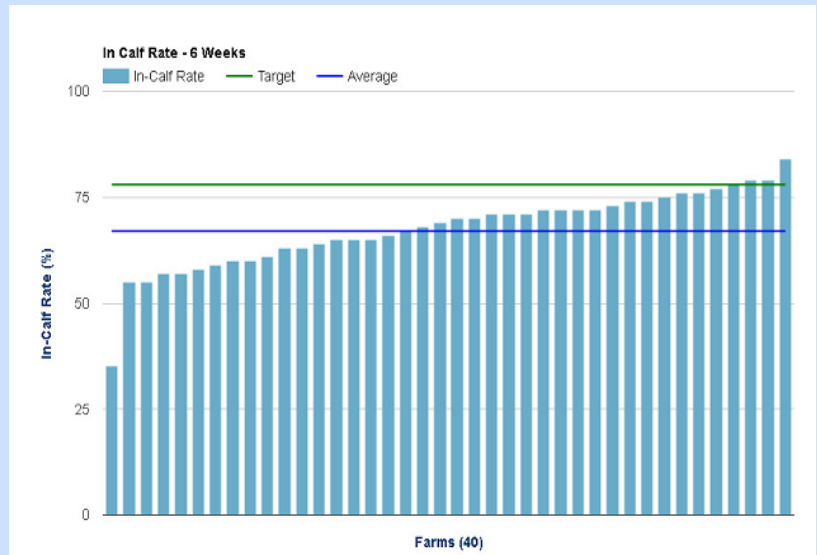
Average 6 week ICR was 67%.

Empty rate ranged from 8% to 30%, but with variable mating lengths.

The official industry empty rate targets have changed this year, lowered somewhat from the unobtainable expectations of previous years. Likewise, you will see the calving pattern targets will also change on your fertility focus report.

If you record events (like CIDRs, mastitis & lameness) on MINDA, we can analyse their impact on your herds reproduction very easily, using Infonet.

Repro Reports I have done this year have seen different points to focus on for every farm. One set of advice doesn't necessarily suit every farm, analysis tailors it for maximum effect



## BCS

Now is the time to condition score your herd and dry off low BCS cows, especially if they are early calvers. They cannot gain condition in the last month of pregnancy due to the demands and size of foetus, and 0.5 is a good monthly gain over the dry period. We can do really cool stats & reports on Infonet. Please call us if you would like to book this in.

## Autumn Jobs

### Youngstock

Youngstock need to be monitored for weight gain and condition score. There is still a worm burden in pasture out there. A major cause of cow loss in the sector is underweight heifers.

## Minerals

Mineral deficiencies should be addressed. Copper levels generally drop over winter, B12 and selenium are often deficient too.

It is a good idea to monitor the herds status with blood or liver samples. Deficiencies can have an impact on growth, production & fertility.

Other things to prioritize over the dry period are mental health. Remember to give yourself a much deserved break!





## DCT—Tips on drying off

Many of our farmers have already started drying off early, but a few tips and reminders about drying off are timely. You can view a good video at [www.topfarmers.co.nz](http://www.topfarmers.co.nz).

Cows should be on maintenance rations for a few days prior to drying off to ensure volume is 5-10 litres. Whether you are inserting dry cow antibiotics or teat seal, hygiene is critical. Taking in bugs from the skin or dirt can cause toxic mastitis (with very sick cows), dry period mastitis, calving mastitis or even just a higher cell count in the spring. Everyone should be wearing gloves, and buckets of clean disinfectant, water and towels should be available for cleaning arms. Teats need to be carefully teat wiped (paying particular attention to the teat end) front teats first then back teats. Syringes need to be carefully uncapped and inserted into back teats then front ones. Do not place them in warm water, and discard if dropped into muck. Ensure you have plenty of people, staff that are trained and plenty of time. Preferably dry off in small mobs to avoid staff fatigue and loss of attention to detail. We are happy to help with a team if you have a large number of cows or inexperienced staff.

Remember to mark and record treated cows—you don't want one getting back into the herd while under with-holding!

Teat spray afterwards and release to a nearby paddock with adequate grass. Avoid cows running for 2km into mud!

Monitor for mastitis every day for a week to 10 days in the paddock, then run through the shed to check.

A reminder that blanket dry cow programs will not be permitted next year. Selective dry cow for high SCC cows and selective teat seal for low SCC cows, is a well-established protocol, with teat seal actually giving longer protection than DCT.

The Antibrogram test is becoming a very popular tool for monitoring antibiotic resistance. A test is done on bulk milk, and any Staph aureus and Strep uberis grown are assessed against multiple antibiotics. This will demonstrate which products to use or avoid, reducing onset of resistance and making treatments more sustainable for your herd and the national industry.

Please contact us if you would like to get one organised.

## CORRECT ADMINISTRATION METHOD

### 1. Clean the Teat



- Clean the teats furthest from you first and then the nearest teats last.
- Completely disinfect the end of the teats, by vigorously rubbing for 10-15 seconds. Look at the teat wipe when finished. If it is dirty, repeat the procedure with a new teat wipe until the teat wipe comes away clean.

### 2. Treat the Teat



- Treat the teats nearest to you first, and then those furthest away last.
- Carefully remove the cap off the syringe or tube without touching the tip with your hand.
- Gently insert the nozzle no more than 3mm into the teat canal. This reduces teat damage and minimises the risk of carrying bacteria into the quarter.
- Infuse the contents into the teat.

### 3. Spray teat

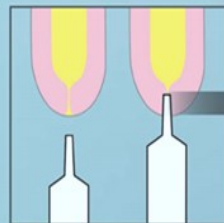


- Teat spray or dip all teats liberally with freshly made up, correct strength solution immediately after treatment.

### 4. Recording



- Clearly record ID number, treatment, and date for every cow. Mark cows clearly so that they are not accidentally milked.



Insert the nozzle no more than 3mm into the teat canal.

Partial insertion reduces teat end damage and minimises the risk of carrying bacteria into the gland.

## Teat Seal

Teat sealing heifers over winter to minimize calving mastitis has proven highly effective and cost beneficial.

With its increasing popularity, we have now got a Teat Seal Trailer to make it easier and safer on properties that do not have hearing bone facilities, as well as a trained and experienced team.

If you want your heifers teat sealed, please ring the clinic soon and book it in, as we anticipate being very busy with it this year.





