



The magazine of Cambridge Vets

treating all animals large and small

April 2020

Editorial – Covid 19

Open All Hours was one of my favourite programs as a kid. As Arkwright would say: It's been a funny old day. Covid 19, in my wisdom, was meant to fizzle out like SARS before it became a pandemic. Shows how much I know. It's been a real scary ride, with family in the UK, USA and Europe. Both the virus and the lockdown have had big impacts on our country, with lots of unknown territory around the corner. I would like to thank Bill for steering Cambridge Vets through this scenario. We have been focused on keeping our community and ourselves safe whilst still providing Essential Services to safeguard animal welfare and health. This has demanded a lot of our staff, who have been under pressure managing the risk; they have been working in teams, constantly disinfecting, avoiding contact with people and triaging cases. So thanks to them, and to you for understanding our new requirements of social distancing, phone consultations, organizing collections ahead of time etc. Going from Level 4 to Level 3 won't change much of our protocols. The farm team are still allowed to do many of the normal jobs as most of our work falls under the welfare/emergency umbrella. However, we will continue to implement social distancing which may impact on how many people can work together, and how we organize jobs.

Teat sealing heifers and Vaccinations

These are prime examples of things we are allowed to do, but will need organizing and discussing ahead of time to implement best practice. We have a teat seal trailer for those mobs still out at grazing or where facilities do not suit heifers.



Karen

It is with great sadness that we share the sudden passing of our team member Karen Rickard. When joining our team in 2016, Karen very quickly became a valued and integral part of our work family. Our clients will remember her smile as she welcomed people through the doors, and how she always went the extra mile to help anyone. She will be greatly missed.

We extend our condolences and deepest sympathy to her husband Steve, and children Logan and Blake.



REPRO BENCHMARKING

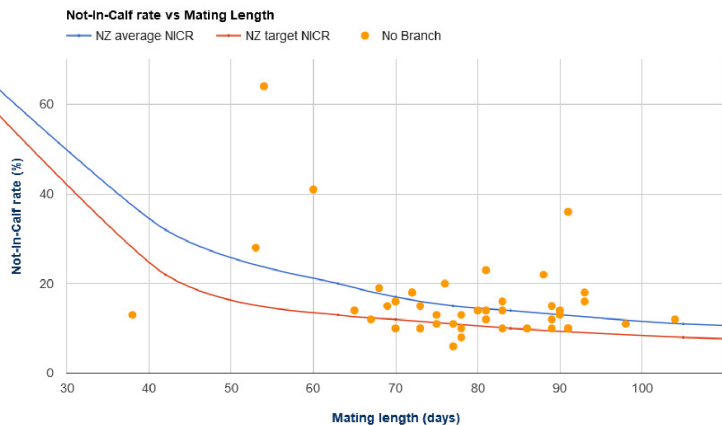
The average 6 week in calf rate for the clinic was 64%, a bit lower than the (ambitious) DairyNZ target of 78%. How did your farm compare? The graph showing not-in-calf rate vs mating length shows the trade-off between the two; a low empty rate is much more impressive with a short mating period!

infovet benchmark.

Not-In-Calf vs Mating Length

Selected Clinic: All Clinics - Selected Farm: All Farms

Year: 2019



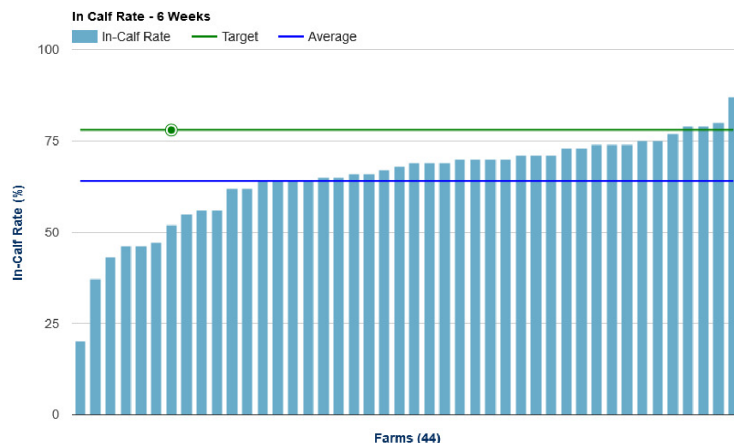
*Target and Average rates supplied by DairyNZ

infovet benchmark.

In Calf Rate

Selected Clinic: All Clinics - Selected Farm: All Farms

Year: 2019



*Target rate supplied by DairyNZ

OOCYTES AND FERTILITY

DairyNZ has recently published research looking at the follicle environment of oocytes and comparing high- and low-fertility cows. Approximately 1/3 of all conceptions are lost by day 7, and the quality of the egg (or oocyte) can have a big impact on this loss rate. They found no difference in non-lactating heifers, but in mature animals, the high fertility cows had lower NEFA levels in the follicular fluid, and low fertility cows had a slower hormone response. This is really interesting because blood NEFAs go up with ketosis, and although this will provide some energy, it has negative effects on cells. As oocytes ovulate 80-100 days after selection, this means that negative energy levels around calving can impact on the quality of the oocyte and fertility. High fertility cows seemed able to “protect” their oocytes from these rising blood levels better than low fertility cows. The other thing that is important for fertility is the hormonal environment. The study found that there is a delay in response in low fertility cows. Their oocytes had lower progesterone levels just before ovulation when compared to the high fertility cows, whose hormone levels had switched over quicker. For more details, have a look at www.dairynz.co.nz/news/better-oocytes-in-our-sights/

This is Wilson. He is now working from home 😊



MYCOPLASMA BOVIS

We have had a few clients with a positive BMT result later in the season which was shown, after blood testing the herd, to be a false positive. It seems that low volume prior to drying off can raise antibody levels as well as cell count. We also see this with BVD antibodies. The test for Mycoplasma has a numerical cut-off (all tests do) rather than an absolute yes / no reading. We are here to help if you want support and advice, but it brings into focus the need to maintain biosecurity as the eradication of M. bovis is a 10 year program!

- Check the history of any stock if you need to buy in
- Bulls are best sourced as virgins from a bull farm
- Ensure good fencing between you and neighbours
- Don't forget the double-disinfection station for visitors – boot-wash first and then disinfectant
- NAIT tracing requires complete and timely data entry for all stock

Sadly Cambridge Vets Golf Day has to be cancelled for 2020. We really value this annual opportunity to have a social catch up with you all, and we are very disappointed we cannot say Thank You in the normal way. But I guess it's a pretty minor impact of Covid 19 in the scheme of things. Hopefully we will be able to make up for it another time!



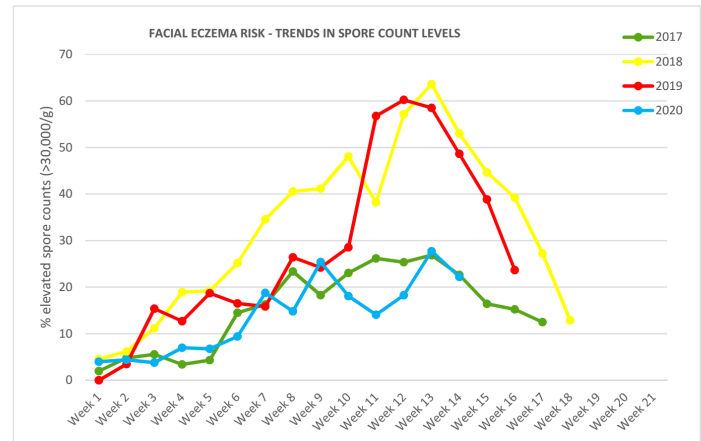
Many of our clients have already started drying off. If you need to do a consultation, please provide your vet with the relevant data online so we can discuss options over the phone. If you need an updated RVM authorization or Animal Health Plan, we can do that as well if you can give us a little notice. We can also help with training staff, or there are some great videos & resources at www.zoetis.co.nz/dairywellness/resources/index.aspx And <https://www.topfarmers.co.nz/know-how/dry-off>

We all know how important condition score is for production, reproduction and health. But do you know how long it will take to get your herd up to 5.0 for calving?

Fonterra and Synlait recommend using a trained BCS assessor at least once a year to give an unbiased eye. We can BCS your herd for you and, if we scanned your herd, we can then give you a Dry Off Calculator which gives dry off dates for each individual cow depending on BCS and due-to-calve date.

With such a dry summer, spore counts did not rise much until late March. Keep an eye out though – the season can extend into May some years. This demonstrates the need to monitor spore counts rather than just supplementing zinc from Christmas.

FE Risk -National trends in spore count levels (% elevated above 30,000 spg)



AsureQuality contributors: Levin/Horowhenua, Whangarei, Morrinsville, Pukekohe, Masterton



PROUDLY AVAILABLE FROM PARTICIPATING VET CLINICS.



SPRINGER is a registered trademark of The Springer-Verlag Group. Registered pursuant to the RZMRG, 1997 No. 400770.
Copyright © 2013 Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg. All rights reserved. 978-3-70-011313-3.

www.cambridgevets.co.nz