



The magazine of Cambridge Vets *treating all animals large and small*

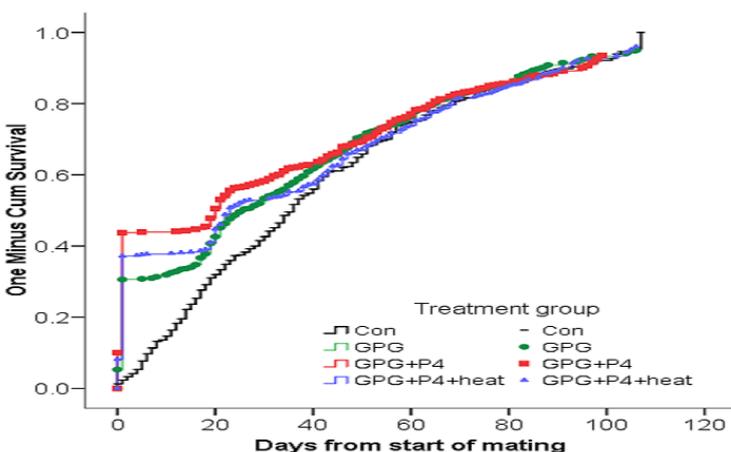
September 2020

MATING SEMINAR

Wednesday 2nd September saw a group of keen farmers eating pizza and listening to some inspirational speakers and me. Greg Chambers MVM from Zoetis gave us a couple of presentations including his research on phantom cows. Here are some highlight bullet points:

CIDRs

- Non-cyclers have delayed submission rate, delayed conception and lower conception rate
- For non-cyclers, the cidr program will bring cows forward an average of 10 days, giving extra days in milk, plus AI calves
- There is a Positive Cost-benefit; this is maximized for early intervention ie at PSM
- but not for late intervention, even though it is less cost as some will cycle; there is less cost-benefit, except for late calvers which are still worth doing later
- The Cost-benefit calculator is available to plug in your figures and assess the value
- Does not reduce empty rate (assuming 12 week mating)



	GPG	GPG + CIDR
Extra DIM	6.4	10.1
Extra AB calves	5%	10%

Mythbusting

- The program does not breed infertility, because it does not reduce the empty rate (i.e. risk of culling is unaltered) and because fertility is only 5% genetic; the 95% environmental influence of calving date, nutrition, body condition, mastitis/lameness etc. has far more impact
- This year's cidrs are not next year's cidrs and vice versa
- Delaying intervention is a false economy and decreases the return on investment

Phantom Cows

- Cows who do not return after service but are empty. About 9% prevalence.
- Scan the 1st 2 weeks of matings at week 7 to identify empties and
 - either cidr or leave untreated.
 - 12% higher pregnancy rate in treated phantom cows vs. untreated phantoms.

Heat Detection

- Critical for submission rate, conception rate, pregnancy rate
- Make a plan!
- Who is going to do
- What
- How
- When
- Get up high to ID rubs, cannot see well enough from pit

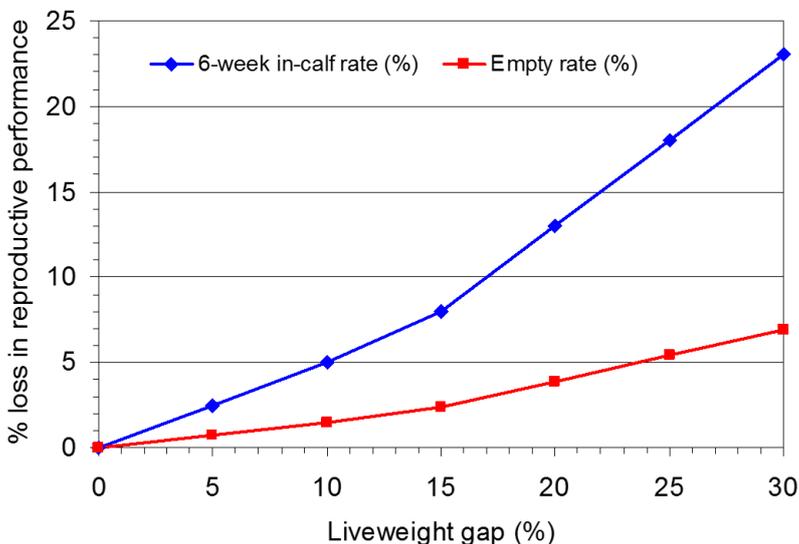


BVD

- Don't forego monitoring your bulk milk! Check before mating
- BVD Costs dairy industry \$160 Million annually. 80% of farms have been exposed, 15% of farms have active infection
- Costs beef industry too - 4.7% drop in pregnancy rate
- Reduced conception rate, higher empty rate, abortions, calf abnormalities, infertile bulls
- Trojan cows are normal cows who get infected when pregnant and give birth to PI calves
- PI animals spread a lot of virus and eventually die of Mucosal Disease
- But PIs may sneak into the milking herd and cause havoc...
- Scours, pneumonia, growth check in calves
- Highly contagious in bodily secretions, STD
- Recent incursion on 2 farms with good biosecurity and closed herds
- Prevent with biosecurity, test and cull, vaccination:
- Test bulk milk, bulls, bought-in cows
- Vaccine prevents foetal infection: Vaccinate at-risk stock e.g. calves grazing away, bulls

Monitoring Mating with KPIs

- Look at last year's Fertility Focus Report with your vet to identify any areas to improve on
- Check Submission Rate – is it above 85% at 3 weeks?
- Check Return Rate at weeks 4, 5 and 6 – if high, plan to maximize the next round e.g. is there a heat detection or conception issue? more bulls needed?
- Heat Detection – assess the submission rate and Inter-estrus intervals (too many short returns? Target <13%)
- Early scanning will give you feedback and confirm your 6 week in calf rate (which drives profitability), and give you opportunity to change strategy if needed.
- Weigh the youngstock every 2 months and check on the Minda Liveweight graph to see if they are on target; light heifers have a lower 6 week in calf rate and a higher empty rate.



Bulls

- “Autonomous Heat Detection and Semen Distribution Systems”
- Ensure healthy and well grown
- Consider using all of them at beginning of bull mating rather than rotating teams
- BVD tested and vaccinated
- Socialized
- Minimize lameness – keep them off the yard

Other mating tips

- Metrichecking – should have done the herd by now, but don't forget your late calvers; they don't get in calf well if they have endometritis
- Why Wait – maximizing your 1st week submission rate by PGing cows that cycled 7-14 days before PSM
- Check the herd Nutrition and BCS.
- Is the milk protein dropping with a lower energy intake? Ketosis can be checked by blood samples on farm
- Mineral Balance OK? Blood tests are an easy check
- Lameness – has a huge impact on conception rate. Get both cows and bulls treated early, and assess/address any underlying issues e.g. yard space, race condition.



LOOK SHARP THIS SPRING WITH BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM SHEEP DRENCHES

Keep your ewes and lambs looking sharp this season with Boehringer Ingelheim sheep drenches and we'll give you a Knifekut Skinning or Boning Knife.

The farming community has been the backbone of our country for over 100 years, and at Boehringer Ingelheim we recognise this value and take great pride in always supporting our farmers.

Mycoplasma bovis update

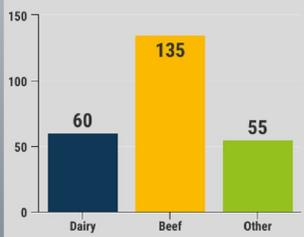
As at 09 September 2020



250 total Confirmed Properties to date



Confirmed property type



↑ 63 Notice of Direction properties
↓ 163 Active Surveillance properties

Active Confirmed Properties
0 North Island
1 South Island

Total Confirmed Properties
70 North Island
180 South Island

What else has changed?

1,916	Properties with NOD revoked	↑ 12 this week
158,129	Cattle have been culled	↑ 49 this week
1,570,084	Tests completed	↑ 7,079 this week

Compensation update

\$172.9 million	Paid in total	↑ \$1.7mil this week
2,144	Claims paid and completed	↑ 20 this week
126	Claims currently being processed	↓ 22 this week

Ag day

We are excited to be sponsoring Ag Days around the district again, and hope the children gain some useful life skills from looking after their animals.

Julie and Meghan have produced a great guide to rearing lambs which is available at the clinic or on our website <https://www.cambridgevets.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Ag-day-lamb-new-v-Katrina.pdf> for you.

We are happy to ring and vaccinate them for you, and please ring us if you have any health concerns.



Ag Day Lamb Rearing Guide



Welcome



We would like to welcome Kate to our team and introduce you to her Born and bred in Cambridge and having grown up with breeding and showing of dogs, it's no wonder Kate is mad keen about animals. Once finished school, Kate's itchy feet took her to Melbourne to work in hospitality but after a few years, the call of home was too strong to resist. Back home to Cambridge and after working in retail, Kate jumped at the opportunity to join the team at CVS. Her previous experience means Kate's a natural behind the counter. She greets everyone as if she know them – many she does – and is very comfortable helping clients decide on which product is right for them. **Welcome aboard Kate!**

WIN a Weber Baby Q BBQ*
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