



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

Spring 2022

## METRICHECKING

A simple but important tool in optimizing mating. We recommend checking an early mob and a late mob at 2-6 weeks after calving. Why?

Cows with endometritis conceive 2-3 weeks later and have 10-20% higher empty rates.

Cows that have had RFM's, difficulty calving, milk fever, twins or ketosis are more likely to have endometritis (28% are metricheck positive). However, through sheer number of cows, we will find more metricheck-positive cows in the rest of the herd; 71% of dirty cows are not At Risk.

Treating metricheck positive cows (irrigating with metriclean) resulted in them conceiving 8 days earlier, with 10% higher 6-week in calf rate and 3.2% higher in calf rate at 84 days.

Early treatment gives better results than late checking (as later some look clean but actually still have an infection so are not treated and end up with 7% lower 6 week ICR).

### Ag. Day

Check out our great resource on our website

[www.cambridgevets.co.nz/farm-animal-services/lifestyle-blocks](http://www.cambridgevets.co.nz/farm-animal-services/lifestyle-blocks)



## Calf Scours

I have seen a few properties struggling with calf scours this year. It is really important to run a few simple tests to determine what the underlying cause is:

Faecal samples can be tested with a Witness 5 ELISA (like the covid test kit) to determine if rotavirus, crypto, coconavirus, E coli or giardia are contributing. Co-infections with Rotavirus and Cryptosporidia are particularly heinous. Antibiotics are of limited use against viruses and protozoa; elucidating the causative agent allows other treatments to be targeted, e.g. Rotagen antibody powders, or vaccination.

Blood samples quantifying Total Protein levels will assess the success or otherwise of colostrum transfer of passive immunity. If the calves are low, then colostrum management may need to be assessed in terms of quantity, quality and timeliness. Inadequate colostrum leaves calves open to diseases, especially scours.

No matter what the cause is, diarrhoea needs to be treated primarily with electrolytes and fluids to address deadly dehydration. I strongly recommend quality electrolytes that contain bicarbonate to treat the acidosis that scours often results in.



## Maximising early in-calf rates

So you've got a plan agreed to treat non-cyclers to ensure they ovulate and are inseminated on the first day of mating.

What's next? There is another step that helps tighten calving spread, with all the associated benefits including more days in milk, better early submission rates next spring and improved cow longevity.

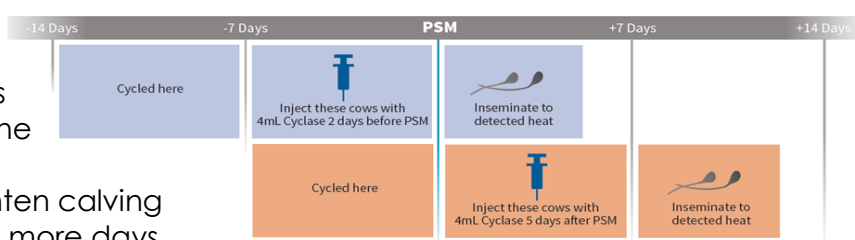
It's called Why Wait, and is designed to help maximise early in-calf rates, as part of a proactive mating management strategy. The principle is simple. A single PG injection can bring cycling cows forward a week, meaning that essentially all cows in the herd ovulate and are inseminated in the first two weeks of mating. For instance, cows cycling during the week before the PSM are generally not mated until the third week of mating. By identifying this group, and then a few days later administering a single injection of PG, the cows cycle much sooner, during the first two weeks of mating.

Similarly cows on heat 7 to 14 days prior to PSM can be injected with PG two days prior to PSM, and will also cycle sooner, in the first few days of mating, instead of during the second week of mating. Cows cycling between 14 and 21 days prior to PSM will cycle in the first week of mating anyway, so no PG is required for this group. Refer diagram at top.

A large New Zealand study showed that cows mated to a heat brought forward by PG have significantly higher in-calf rates and an extra 3 days in milk.

It is important to note that the success of a Why Wait program does rely on accurate heat detection, as well as good organisation and planning

Call the clinic today and ask if Why Wait will suit your system.



# 'Why Wait': New Zealand's superior synchrony program for cycling cows

Farmers synchronising cycling cows with the 'Why Wait' program obtain more calves during the first 14 days of AB and superior milk production efficiency.

## Why synchronise cycling cows?

**4**  
more days  
in milk



**6.5 kg**  
more  
milk solids



**more calves in  
first 14 days**  
from more cows pregnant  
during first 14 days of AB



## Superior performance

A New Zealand study showed that synchronising cycling cows with the superior 'Why Wait' (4mL Cyclase) program (compared to the standard program) will provide 3% higher in-calf rate and 4 extra days in milk.

	Pregnancy rate (6 week in-calf)
Standard program (2mL Cyclase)	72%
Superior program (4mL Cyclase)	75%

## Superior profitability

The superior 'Why Wait' synchrony program provides farmers with an extra \$35 profit per cow.

**4:1**  
ROI

Ask your vet for the 'Why Wait' program

## TAIL PAINT

For those farmers who don't yet have a collar system on their cows (!), it is really important to get tail paint on asap. Any cows that have not cycled in the round before mating can then be presented for non-cycler examination / treatment. If you have different colours each week, this system can be used for the 'Why Wait program'.



## MASTITIS

Whilst we are not seeing a high rate of mastitis this year, it is still worthwhile taking milk samples of cases before treatment. We can culture the bacteria overnight in the clinic, giving you a picture of the type of mastitis, and insights into cause, treatment and prevention strategies.

*Do remember to clean the teats twice with teat wipes first, or we will just grow dirt bugs!*

## KETOSIS AND BLOOD SAMPLES

The Lactating Cow Profile on 10 blood samples from your herd not only checks the trace element status of your cows, it also gives you information on their levels of ketosis. If the BOH levels are high, the cows are in negative energy balance, and this will have negative impacts on endometritis, oestrus, conception rates and of course milk production. You can't change anything if you don't measure it.



# BVD

**BVD is still a major disease causing havoc with mating results as well as impacting on milk production, mastitis, abortions, calf deformities and growth rates. Have you had your bulk milk checked this year? It should be done every year, even if you have been negative for years and have a closed herd as I have seen incursions even then. Have your bulls been tested, and vaccinated with a booster recently? Not only will it make bulls infertile, but they can spread it very effectively throughout the herd.**

## **BLOAT / RUMENSIN**

There has been a bit of bloat around already, especially where clover has shot away.

Bloat oil and Rumensin are both effective preventatives....



**ONE AND DONE**

## **ABAMECTIN POUR-ONS:**

**Note all abamectin pour-on products now have a milk WH of 35 days!**

## CONGRATULATIONS

Patrick and his wife Eleanor welcomed 2 beautiful baby girls into the world on the 1st of September weighing 6lb 10oz and 7lb 1oz. We wish them good health and happiness in the coming years.



## Raising Money for True Colours Waikato

Bit of fun had in clinic on September 1st. Members of the team turned out in their brightest colours. A big thank you to everyone who entered our True Colours raffle. We have raised money and awareness for the True Colours Charitable Trust in Hamilton. Congratulations to our hamper winner Heidi, we hope you and your four legged family enjoy the goodies.



## RELIABILITY IS THE BACKBONE OF A WORTHY POUR ON.

Every New Zealand farm is different, that's why we're constantly innovating to provide options for effective combination pour-ons that are outperforming in efficacy, safety and reliability. With DMI-Sorb™ technology, both BOSS® and world-first formula TURBO® Pour-on are rain-resistant combinations to tackle New Zealand's unruly weather conditions. Talk to your vet about which product is best suited for your operation.



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\*Promo runs from 1st August - 30th September 2022. Ask in clinic for qualifying products.



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