



# Veterinary Centre MoozNews

## Setting up for Mating 2021



**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 Multimatin (or the new Marks-Min (think Multimatin 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.

### In this Issue

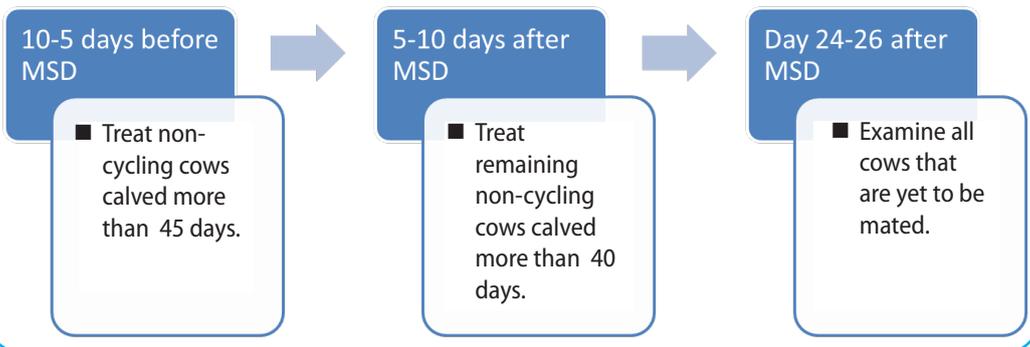
- Setting up for Mating 2021
- HeatCHECK – Optimising heat detection on your farm before it's too late!
- Salmonella Study
- Dealing with late calvers – what can you do?
- Product of the month
- Pre-mate trace element supplementation
- BVD Bulletin
- Uddernews
- Bloat season is here right now
- Heifer Mating – Getting the best bang for your buck
- Production down across the South
- Having cows 'on a rising plane'
- Cow BCS Going Into Mating
- Bull Mating Requirements
- Backing Winners – Which Cows Should Be Treated with a CIDR?
- Tracecheck Feedback
- Coccidiosis Prevention of Calves
- Product of the Month – TURBO® Initial
- Animal Health Tips Post-Weaning
- Planning For Reproductive Success – Reproductive Consults with your Prime Vet

### 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.

### Best Practice Set up for Non-cycler Interventions



## How is your herd tracking pre-mate?

Count cycling cows.

Aim for ...

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

# 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.



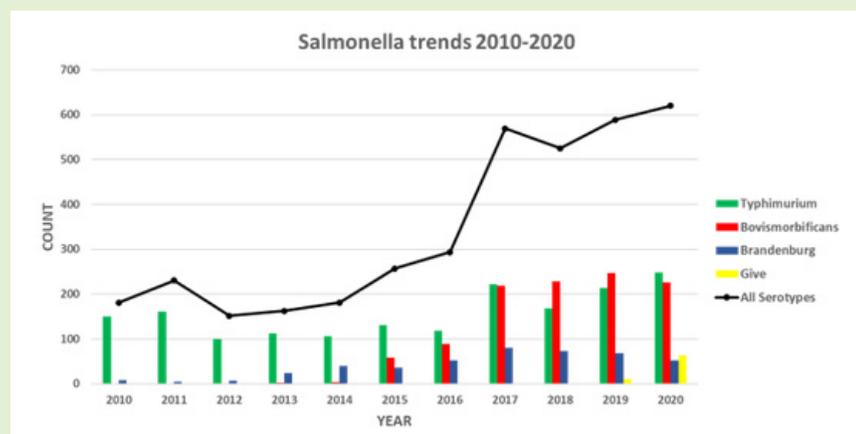
# Salmonella Study

Andrew Muir BVSc BSc (Hons) - VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



**Salmonella is a significant cause of scouring and death in dairy cattle.**

The number of diagnosed Salmonella out-breaks in New Zealand cattle has been on the rise in recent years, and new strains emerged and spread around the country.



**Salmonella is also an increasing cause of food poisoning in humans,** representing a risk to the health of farm workers, their families, and the general public.

**How you can help.**

- If you have cattle that become unwell very quickly with a scour which is possibly bloody get one of our vets involved.
- You may be asked to complete a survey that is being conducted by Massey University, if you are could you take a few minutes too complete it.



MASSEY UNIVERSITY  
TE KUNENGA KI PŪREHUROA  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW ZEALAND

# Dealing with late calvers – what can you do?

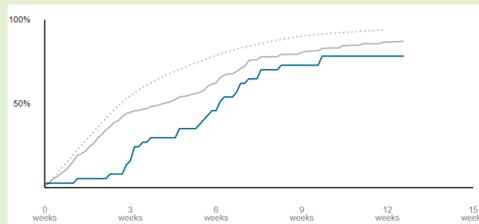


**Ryan Luckman BVSc (Dist) MANZCVS (Epidemiology) - VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate**

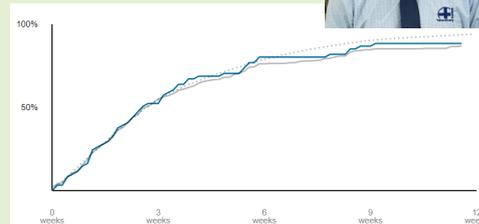
While most cows will have received a coat of pre-mate tailpaint at the time of printing there are still some cows holding off in the hope of being born under a Libra star sign (Sept 23rd to Oct 22nd for those not familiar). Generally these late calvers end up empty, or if they do get pregnant they calve down late again the following season.

Last year we investigated the use of OAD milking as a possible tool to help break this cycle in late calvers. We worked with John Gregan and his team (alongside DairyNZ and LIC) as a focus farm looking to improve reproductive performance. While the farm overall saw an impressive 14% increase in the 6WICR (from 62% to 76%), one of the real stand-out groups were the late calvers which had an amazing 34% increase in their 6WICR (from 46% to 80%).

The team elected to keep all 61 late calvers (from the 20th September) on OAD until two weeks after they were mated. Implantation occurs around 14 days after mating, so the two week addition (post-mating) was intended to help reduce early embryonic losses. They were prepared to sacrifice milk last season if it meant that: a) their empty rate was reduced, and; b) that they got more days in milk the following season.

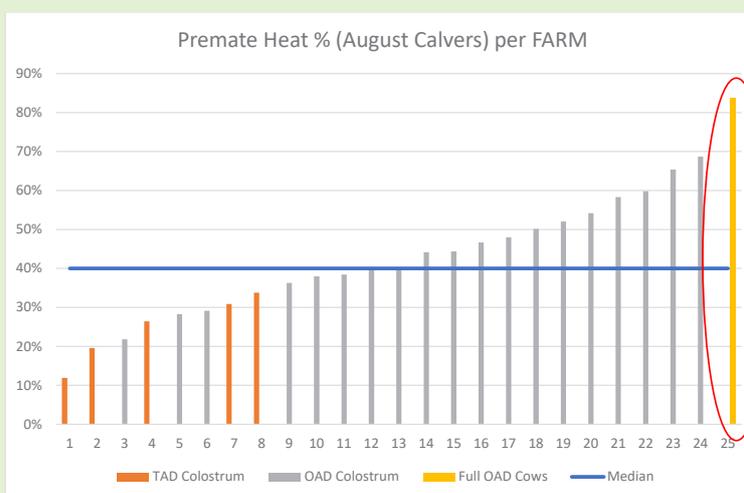


2019/2020 Season (Late Calvers TAD)



2020/2021 Season (Late Calvers OAD)

Analysis of the pre-mate heats on our collar farms is providing further evidence of why this extended OAD probably worked. The graph below compares the percentage of August calvers that have had a pre-mate heat one month out from mating (over 25 collar farms). The clear outlier in the group is the yellow bar on the right-hand side. This farm only milks OAD all season. As a result, in the August calving group 83% of the cows have already cycled one month out from mating! This compares to a median value across the rest of the herds of 40%. Late calvers don't have the luxury of time, so quickly resuming cycling is a critical step to breaking the cycle.



Extended OAD will come with a production cost, however a strategy like this would be worth considering for anyone with considerable numbers of late calving cows. Get in touch with your prime vet for a more in-depth discussion on the pro's and con's of the concept.

## Product of the month Pre-mate trace element supplementation



	MULTIMIN	MARKS-MIN
Trace Element Ingredients	Zinc, Copper, Manganese, Selenium	Zinc, Copper, Manganese, Selenium <b>and B12</b>
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)	<b>\$3.62</b> + GST	<b>\$4.33</b> + 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 cow dose is \$0.84 +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.



# Uddernews

Hamish Newton BVSc, PhD – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



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 at 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, or as they age. 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 – a bit like keeping Auckland in lockdown except they can still go to work.

Mastitis will be now mainly being spread from cow to cow in the milking shed rather than picking infections up from the springer or colostrum paddocks. By having a “clean herd” that is milked before a “dirty herd” you reduce 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.

Another thing that will increase the rate of spread of infection is poor “teat health”. The cups have been on the cows now for long

enough 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 this 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



Over the years Simon has trialled most of the heifer mating programmes on his property. In his words:

*“Our farms (Providence Farm and Fortitude Farm) have considered the different mating options for heifers for many years, as most dairy farmers have. We run the replacement stock for these farms under a single herd code, and aim to have 600-650 replacement heifers available each season.*

*Over the years we have used many mating systems, ranging from a single dose of PG and 11 days of heat detection, to a full synchrony programme with 2 rounds of CIDR’s. After analysing results each year, we definitely favour the full CIDR synchrony programme over the PG alternatives. Replacement heifer calves from our maiden heifers represent a significant advantage. Their calves are born early, and they are the best genetic animals in the herd. This leaves us more options in the mixed age cows;*

- to select superior animals to produce more replacements
- for short gestation beef calves to supply the beef herd
- for short gestation dairy calves to tighten up calving

*We will definitely use a programme in all our heifers this year, of CIDR’s and fixed time AB for all the heifers, followed by AB to detected oestrus from day 17 to day 22.”*

In this decision Simon has identified two system changes that have further increased the ROI from using CIDR’s in his heifers:

## 1. Applying scratche’s and AI’ing heifers when they return between days 17 to 22

- Replacement heifers out of young stock should have the highest BW in the herd. To validate this we asked LIC to break down the BW difference between replacements reared from Heifers vs MA cows for the 2021 season. As the table illustrates, replacements from heifers had BW values \$28.40 higher (on average) than those from MA cows.

## Production down across the South



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

If you’re feeling like your production is back this Spring then we can confirm you’re definitely not the only one. This drop is something we’d noticed across the practice, so we asked Pam Phipps (Fonterra) and Chrissy Williams (Oceania) for some regional figures to put some facts around the feeling.

	Fonterra		Oceania
	South Canterbury and North Otago	Mid Canterbury	South Canterbury and North Otago
Season to Date Variance	-11.50%	-4.64%	-9.00%
Month to Date Variance (up to 20th September)	-5.84%	-2.37%	-2.00%

Most farms have been tight on feed, with low growth rates still in the 20’s-30’s KgDM/ha/day region. This has meant extra supplementary feed, and tighter grass breaks. The good news is that as long as we get some heat now, residuals going into the second round have set most farms up for fantastic second round grass quality. Many farms are starting to close in on daily production towards the end of September, and we’ll cross our fingers for a slingshot effect going into mating with high ME grass.

## 2021 Born – Excluding NM Sires

Differential = \$28.4 BW (~\$9.4 from sire, ~\$19 from dam)

2021	2yo Dam	MA dam	Differential
Calf	196.9	168.5	28.4
Sire	247.9	229.1	18.9
Dam	146.3	108.4	37.9

\*39,814 calves from 2yo dams, 307,821 calves from 4-6 year old dams

- By mating the return cycle in these animals, you not only increase the number of high BW replacement heifers, but it also means there is a lower bull requirement across the heifers. For Simon’s example this has meant an extra 70 high BW replacement calves and reduced his bull requirements from 30 bulls to around 13 bulls. This is a considerable cost saving when we typically budget on a loss of \$4-500 per bull.

NOTE: Be sure to keep a minimum of 3 bulls in each mob for safety/cover!

## 2. Using more short gestation semen in his MA cows

Because the replacement numbers required within the MA herd were much lower (with the high numbers coming out of the heifers) Simon has been able to selectively mate high BW animals within the herd for replacements, and then use short gestation semen in the lower BW animals.

In Simon’s example this has meant an extra 800 short gestation straws can be used across the herd. At a 50% conception rate, this would equate to approximately 3-4000 extra days in milk in the following season (an increased value of ~\$40,000!).

If you’d like to talk through how to get the best bang for your buck out of your heifer mating programme then get in touch with your prime vet to discuss options.

## 3. AB vs. Bulls

AB and natural mating are two options for mating heifers. Yearling heifers represent the highest genetic merit cows in your herd at 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:

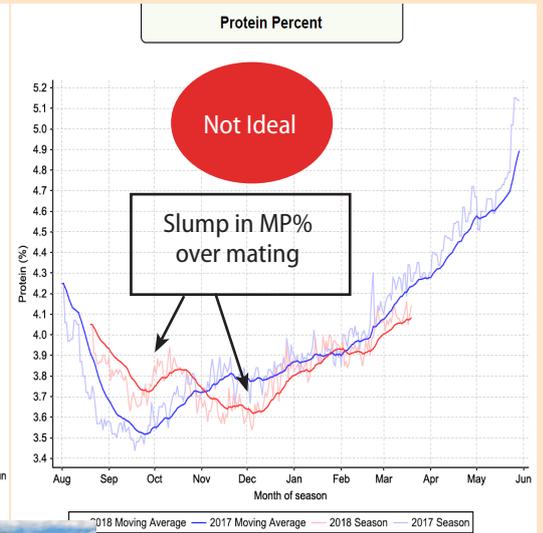
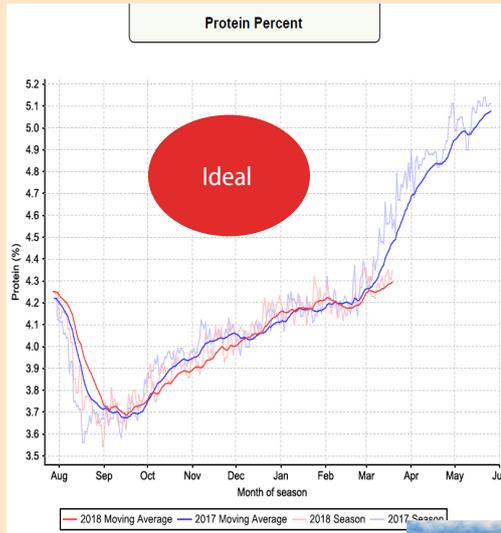
- Single-shot PG – Mate to detected heat until day 6. Inject all unmated heifers on day 6. Mate to detected heat for a further 5 days. Cost approx. ~\$3.50/heifer (Single Shot is based on average price for a group if just 70% are injected).
- Double-shot PG – 1st injection 14 days prior to start of mating. 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. ~\$29.45 plus GST/heifer (plus vet time).

## Are your heifers small? Pre-pubertal?

Prostaglandin synchrony may be ineffective. Ask your prime vet about easy, convenient and effective heifer CIDR synchrony.

# 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.



# 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?

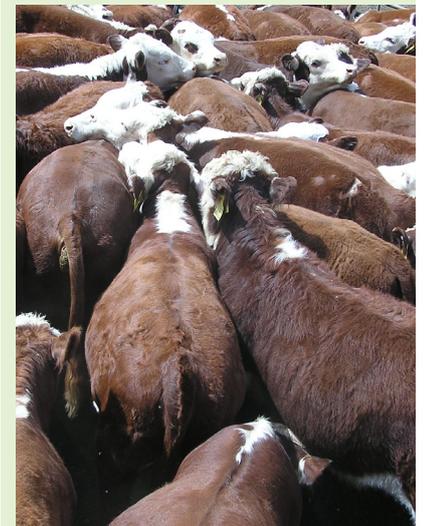


# Bull Mating Requirements

Start sourcing bulls NOW. These should be blood tested free and vaccinated for 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,

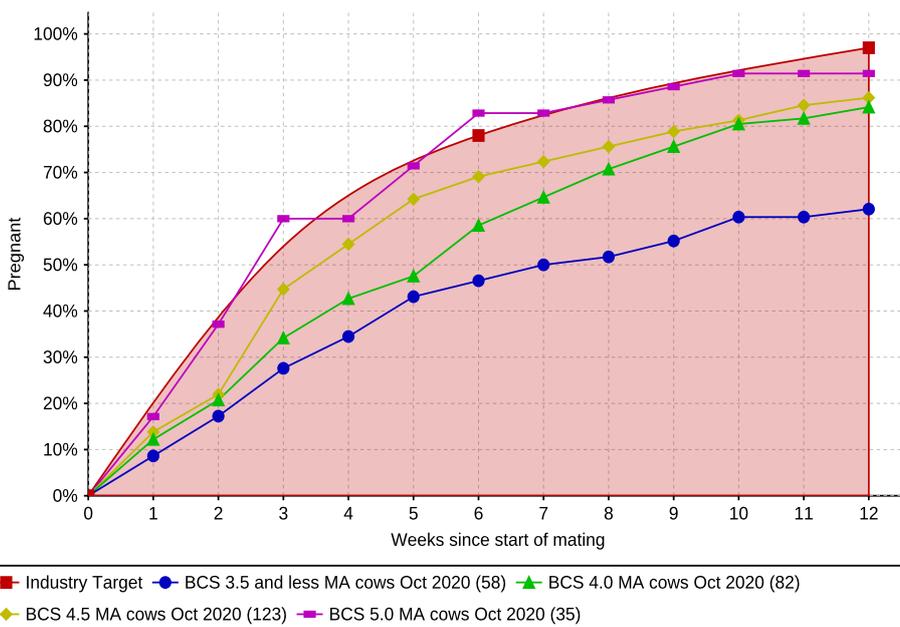
- if doing a 4 week AI period would need 14 sound bulls in the herd at all times, plus another 14 to rotate and possibly 5 to back up.
- if doing a 6 week AI period would need 8 sound bulls in the herd at all times, plus another 8 to rotate and possibly 3 to back up.
- a good idea is to run a marker 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.



## Pregnancy Rate

Planned start of Mating: 29/10/2020

Season: 2020



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.

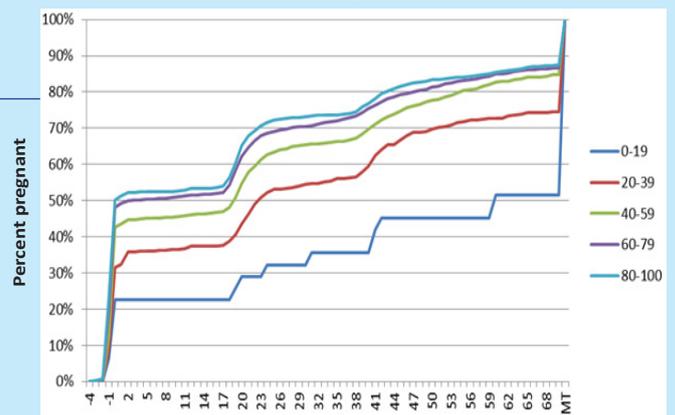
Graph shows pregnant cows with a conception date prior to 12 weeks after PSM.

# 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



## Tracecheck Feedback

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

Three brief observations;

- Vitamin B12 levels on most farms have been good to date but these often drop as we enter lush second round grass. A combination of low dry matter, high crude protein and low fibre (NDF) reduce the formation and absorption of vitamin B12. Loose faeces are good indicator of these feed attributes. Consider strategic early October injection.
- 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 dosatron 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.



**Compass**  
Explore the potential

## Coccidiosis Prevention of Calves

We often see coccidia outbreaks in calves that are greater than 4 weeks of age that still aren't eating enough meal (<1kg per day). However the other time we see coccidia problems are when calves have the meal removed after weaning. The coccidiostats in calf meal inhibit coccidia growth, when the meal is removed the coccidia will continue their development and complete their life cycle which can result in disease. Trial work in NZ has shown that calves treated with Diclazuril (Turbo® Initial) when meal is removed are 3-5 kg heavier 5 weeks post meal removal than those that aren't treated. This was in an environment with a relatively low coccidia burden. A lot of our farms will have much higher burdens than this so perhaps we could expect even greater weight gains. If you have had calves in previous seasons that just don't do well when meal is removed it would be advisable to consider the use of Turbo® Initial in calves at calf meal removal.

For best effect Turbo® Initial should be given 15-20 days after weaning off meal (if it had contained a coccidiostat).

## 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.

### 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.

**\$789** Incl GST

\$2.50 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 next few 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.

**When to wean** – calves should have reached minimum target liveweights on milk e.g. 70kg for Jerseys; 80 kg for XB; 90 kg for Friesians – but these will depend on the rearing system used – **and** importantly they should be consuming an average of 1kg/day of good quality calf meal. Keep weaned calves (that are weaned off milk) 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 (green faeces) for 3 weeks. Oral drenches at 3-4 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. 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 oral drenches which include abamectin.

**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. 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. Toltrax is a one off oral drench that could be used as calves are weaned off meal, or earlier if the property has a history of coccidia.

**Monitoring growth rates** – regularly weighing your calves and responding to those not meeting targets is the best way to ensure they keep gaining 0.7 – 0.8 kg per day, every day, and reach targets as they enter your herd in two years time.

## Planning For Reproductive Success – Reproductive Consults with your Prime Vet

The majority of farmers feel that 'Non Cycling Cows' are the greatest restraint in achieving good reproductive performance.

Achieving a high rate of pre-mate cycling will enhance both submission and conception rates.

Our reproductive consults are targeted with advice and monitoring to promote early resumption of cycling.

- Review of key reproductive problem areas from last season
- Regular BCSing and nutritional checks

- Manipulation of reproductive hormones through nutrition
- Strategic management of high risk (low BCS) cows
- Trace mineral profiling
- Time-lined KPI's leading up to mating
- Tailored tailpaint program and options for optimising non-cycler outcomes once mating nears
- Handy hints and tips gathered from top performing farms – Heat detection, Bull management, heifer mating, disease treatment and prevention.

### Why Do Early Non-Cycler Interventions?

↩ Increase 3 Week SR

This will ensure more cows have at least three potential cycles inside a 10 week mating period which should lower herd empty rate

↪ Increase Days-In-Milk

Early CIDR treated non-cyclers will average 16 days more milk than non-treated animals in the following season

↻ Condense Future Calving Pattern

This will increase proportion of cows with pre-mate heats next season



## Compass

Explore the potential

### 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.

