



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

September 2016

MATING TIPS AND REMINDERS

Cidrs / CueMates

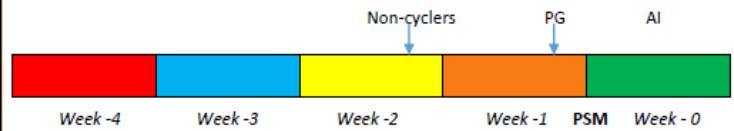
Cidrs can be used to synchronize a mob, or for non-cyclers. Cidrs give the best return on investment if cows are treated 10 days before PSM. This year it is a very positive cost-benefit for both owners and share-milkers; we can calculate this for your farm.

Heat Detection - Are your team trained and motivated? It is vital that oestrus is being actively monitored and identified accurately. Would a bit of in-farm competition for a meal out focus everyone's attention?

BCS - Body condition is the most important way of reducing non-cyclers. Scoring your herd ahead of time is critical to know where you're at. Aim to minimize BCS loss between calving and mating so it does not dip below 4.0.

Heifers are most at risk and may benefit from being run in a separate mob and fed preferentially.

Tail paint - Getting an idea of pre-mating heats will either reassure you all is on track, or give you fair warning if it is not. Aim to get tailpaint on the herd a month before Planned Start of Mating.



Synchrony - The Why Wait Program can be used to condense the first round of mating; we simply PG the yellow tail paint cows on day 0 (PSM) to bring them on a week early. Orange cows can be PG'd on day 7. PG shots can also be used for heifers; 2 shots given 10-14 days apart will bring them on in 2-4 days. They will need tail painting and monitoring though. Alternatively they can be cidr'd and fixed time AI'd all on the same day.

Bulls - Ensure bulls are well grown and healthy, sound of limb and foot, wormed, and both tested and vaccinated for BVD. Don't stint on bull numbers – 1 bull per 20 non-pregnant cows, and allow for rest / rotation and heifer mobs. Training bulls to stay in the paddock and off the yard is well worth the effort in reducing lameness in both bulls and cows.

Metri-checking

A cow won't conceive if her uterus is infected or inflamed! Metri-checking the herd pre-mating is a simple and cost-effective way of minimizing the impact of metritis – any dirty cows can be treated straight away with a nil milk WH irrigation. Don't leave it too late – early intervention gives best results. Often it is best to target the known at-risk cows early (RFMs, hard calvings, twins, milk fever), or to do the early calvers first and then the later calvers in a second mob. From a cost-benefit perspective In a herd of 250 cows, approximately 25 will develop endometritis. Of these, it is likely that 5 will fail to conceive (cost of empties), and 20 cows will be 2-3 weeks late to calve, resulting in lost milk production as well. Irrigating minimizes these losses. Cows should be checked 2-4 weeks after calving and a month before mating.

Mating Seminar

Our next seminar will be a MATING SEMINAR on the evening of 15th September, again in our clinic with pizzas and drinks. Please phone us to book a place – it will be a great opportunity to have a yarn and pretend you are discussing mating!



Calf Health

- **Worms** – the warm, wet winter has been ideal for worms, so we are anticipating a high challenge this year. Oral drenches are still highly recommended for young calves, but an injectable may be needed if there is a lungworm issue. Faecal egg counts will inform you as to the necessity of drenching. To reduce onset of drench resistance: only drench when necessary, do not underdose, and consider leaving the best animals undrenched as refugia.
- **B1 deficiency / Thiamine deficiency / Polioencephalomalacia** is often seen at this time of year. Calves look dopey, may lag behind the mob and are often blind. If treated promptly, they can improve with a series of thiamine injections.
- **Leptospirosis** – calves should be vaccinated well before Christmas, to reduce the chance of them becoming carriers and spreading the bacteria in their urine.
- **Spring Eczema**



BVD in Beef

Common, costly and controllable

BVD is one of the most common and costly diseases in New Zealand cattle. This highly contagious virus can cause lower pregnancy rates, abortions, the birth of persistently infected (PI) carriers of BVD virus, slower growth rates, ill thrift, scours and death. Many of the losses it causes are not obvious; you cattle may have this disease and you may not be aware of it.

In NZ about 15%-20% of dairy herds and 65% of beef herds are infected with BVD, and most beef and dairy herds will be infected at some point in time. The economic impact in dairy herds has been estimated at between \$35 and \$87 per cow per year in an infected herd. In beef herds economic losses are associated with ill thrift in young stock and on average, a 5% increase in empty cows, and it is estimated that BVD costs between \$3,000 - \$9,000 per 100 cows annually in an infected beef herd.

Control of BVD involves testing and culling of PI cattle, bio-security measures to keep the virus out, and vaccination. Tests can be done on individual animals and on bulk milk samples.

Biosecurity measures include testing of all incoming stock onto the farm. An important group to test is breeding bulls – we recommend that all breeding bulls are tested for BVD virus before purchase.

Zoetis have a BVD vaccine out which has a convenient window of injections (suitable for the beef yarding situation) as part of a wider risk control strategy. They are offering to subsidize blood tests so you can assess the BVD risk in your herd. Ring us at the clinic if you want to know more.

Resynchrony

From A Bates Sep 2016 NZVJ

In a South Island study, nearly 2000 non-cyclers were cidr'd and AI'd at PSM. Then they were scanned at 23 days if they had not returned on heat. They were also tested for progesterone levels in milk with a cow-side test. Cows confirmed not pregnant were either re-synchronized with the same treatment program (being AI'd at day 35 of mating), or received no further treatment. They were then scanned again at 80-90 days.

There were several interesting figures:

- 38% of treated non-cyclers conceived to first insemination
- 55% were pregnant by day 23
- 68% were pregnant by day 42
- 77% were pregnant at end of 12 weeks mating
- 29% of treated non-cyclers went phantom (not-pregnant, but did not return to heat)
- 43% of cows not returning to oestrus were phantom
- 48% of the treated phantoms were pregnant by day 42 – twice as likely as...
- 28% of non-treated phantoms were pregnant by day 42



By the end of mating the final pregnancy rate for resynchronized was 67% and non-treated phantoms was 62%.

The re-synchrony program increased the herd pregnancy rate at 42 days by 1.4% and increased herd days in milk by 0.5 per 100 cows.

26% of cows with low milk progesterone 23 days after PSM were actually pregnant!

CONCLUSION: In cows not observed in oestrus and treated before PSM, resynchronisation increased the proportion pregnant by 42 days after PSM.

CLINICAL RELEVANCE: The benefit of resynchronisation depends on the number of anoestrous cows before PSM and the number of phantom cows after PSM. However at the herd-level it is likely that focusing on reducing the known risk factors for cows not cycling before the PSM may well be more cost effective than identifying and treating a sub-population of phantom cows.



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Johnes Disease in Goats

(*Angus Black NZVP - Vetscript august 2016*). Just as cows and sheep are susceptible to Johne's Disease, so too are goats. In fact, goats can become infected by both the cow and sheep subtypes of the bacteria *Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis*. However, it presents differently in goats: affected animals are generally older than 12 months, with gradual weight loss, depression, altered breathing, weak, and a drop in milk production. Whereas cows exhibit watery diarrhoea, goats rarely do, although their faeces may become soft and non-pelleted.

The main transmission is via faeces, and the organism can survive for up to 12 months in the environment. Stocking density has a major impact on spread, so *dairy* goats are more susceptible.

Other modes of transmission include milk, semen and urine, and the bacteria can cross the placenta to infect the foetus before birth.

Because the signs are fairly vague, other diseases need to be ruled out such as parasite burden, nutrition, mineral deficiency or tooth issues.

It may only present as an increase in the tail end of the mob, or a drop in milk production (one example was 12% drop by

or a drop in milk production (one example was 10% drop by season).

We can test for it with blood samples, but it can be quite hard to detect if the bacteria are not multiplying. There is also a milk test for cattle.

Vaccination can decrease shedding of the organism and

clinical disease, but does not absolutely prevent infection. Give us a ring if you are concerned your goats are not

producing as well as they should be.

Transforming Dryland Sheep and Beef Farms

Derrick Moot won a Best Speaker prize at the recent vet conference. His paper looked at making dryland grazing farms sustainable from production / profit and environmental perspectives. The studies were based in Canterbury, but some lessons could be applied to Waikato summers! Obviously both nitrogen and water have a huge impact on productivity, but irrigation has a cost. Urea is a simple solution for adding nitrogen to the mix, but at an environmental impact; we import nearly 400,000 tonnes of the stuff annually, but about 1.3 million tonnes of CO₂ are produced in its manufacture. Using legumes within the pasture mix yields free nitrogen fixation, gives high ME pasture and sheep like eating them! On several example farms, conversion to a legume-mix pasture increased both productivity and profitability. Lucerne has a deep tap root for better dry spell production, but potential animal health problems include:

- Increased risk of red gut (feeding fibre, clostridial vaccination important)
 - Oestrogenic compounds (coumestrol) can decrease ovulation/twinning if consumed during mating
 - B12 deficiency
 - Bloat
 - Salt deficiency

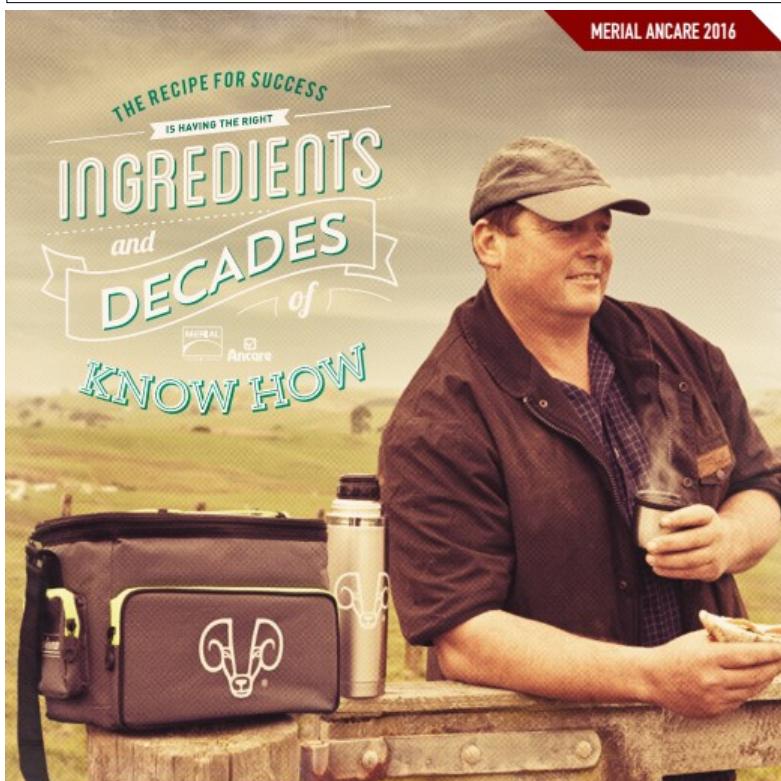
My Goodness – Lame cows!

A wet winter has seen many farms battling with an increasing number of lame cows. Excess moisture wicks through the sole and hoof wall creating a soft foot (remember what your skin looks like after a long soak in the bath). This combined with standing on concrete leads to bruising and development of a sole penetration, especially in heifers. The current cost per lame cow is estimated at \$315. Prompt treatment will reduce the associated drop in milk production and weight loss and will improve the cows chance of getting back in-calf. And yes lame cows are in pain!

Helpful tips to reduce lameness:

- The backing gate is only to be used to occupy space – it is not used to push cows
 - Allow space on the yards for cows to move into their milking order
 - Stay in the pit – milker's should only enter the yard when necessary
 - Allow cows to drift along the races – do not push
 - Heads up is an indicator of too much pressure
 - Minimise time spent on concrete
 - Ensure stones are not being dragged onto concrete surfaces

CVS has two experienced Healthy Hoof Advisors. They can assist in the development of a comprehensive program to minimize the impact lame cows may be having on your business.



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CVS Ag Day Photo Competition

We would like to invite children with an Ag day calf, lamb or goat to submit a photo of their animal and themselves. They can be emailed to cambvet@xtra.co.nz or dropped off at the clinic. There will be two categories: ages 5-8 and 9-12. Let us know your details, child's age, pet's name and your contact details, and state if we can post the photo on our Facebook page. We will have a judging competition at the end of October with PRIZES TO BE WON!



No After Hours Surcharge!

We would like to remind you that for bona fide farm clients with a genuine emergency, we do NOT charge extra for after -hours call outs. This courtesy is to encourage prompt attention for positive welfare, and in acknowledgement that you can't help the timing of emergencies!



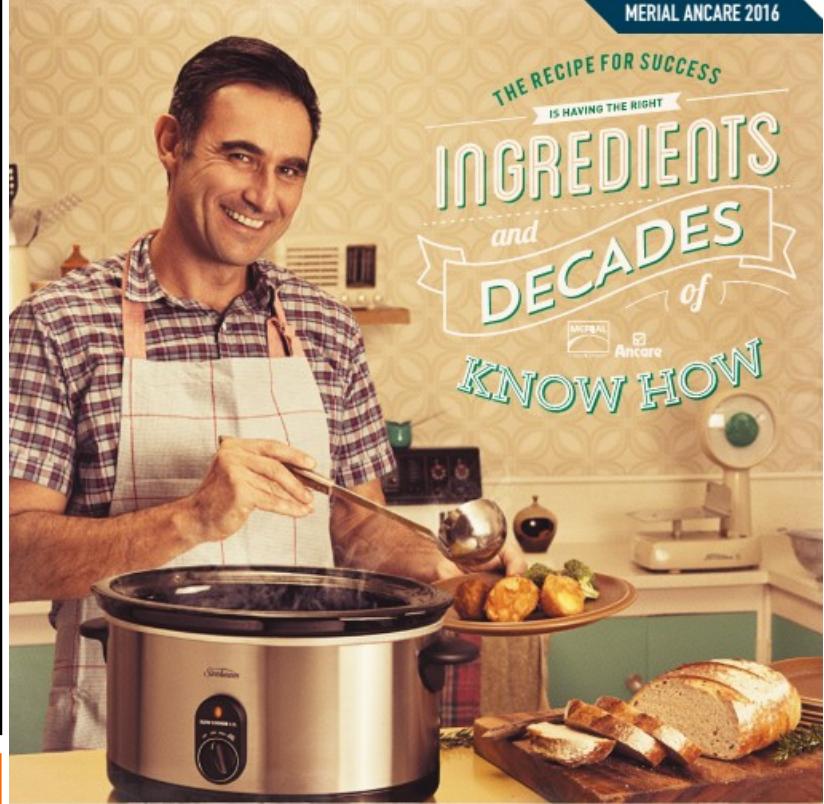
Education Evening

Later in October The Small Animal Department will be hosting an education evening.

We aim to present interesting and useable information to help you keep your pets in the best health possible. Rotating through 4 display areas, we will present 4 experienced speakers on the following topics: vaccinations, parasites, nutrition and dentals. We will walk owners through a complete dental demonstration.

Please join us for an interesting, free evening.

Please call Katrina at the clinic (07 827 7099) to register your interest.



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A horizontal row of five product boxes. From left to right: a red box labeled 'ECLIPSE' with a blue and white graphic; a black box labeled 'GENESIS' with a yellow and white graphic; a dark grey box labeled 'MODULUS' with a light grey and white graphic; and a dark grey box labeled 'MATRIX C' with a light grey and white graphic.



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PROMOTION ENDS 28/03/16

GOSSIP!

GOSSIP! We christened our new clinic with the first Spring Seminar within its walls! Thanks to Chris Crickett and Julie Hetherington who engaged the attendees with discussions on calving, metabolics, calf rearing and mastitis.

You may have seen or spoken to some new people at the counter recently. We would like to welcome Katrina and Karen to our CVS team.

Katrina will be covering the phones whilst Christina is on maternity leave. She is a farmer and an AI technician. Originally from England she migrated here in 2013. Katrina has two dogs and two cats and is loving kiwi life.

Karen's role is at the front desk,

and she will be the person who greets you if you come in over the weekend. Karen is a mum to two boys, recently moved down from Auckland and is enjoying Cambridge lifestyle.



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