

Welcome to your Farm Newsletter for Spring Mating of 2024!

## MATING

### - Metri-checking

There has been quite a lot of milk fever reported this spring with the low DM / high DCAD pasture. This is a risk factor for developing endometritis, along with ketosis, RFMs, difficult calvings etc. The simple intervention of metrichecking to detect and irrigating to treat these infections will lift the herd's reproductive performance, increasing heats and conception rate. Many farms are now checking the early mob at 2-6 weeks post-calving, then the late mob pre-mating. This earlier check increases the detection rate and the subsequent repro results. An NZ study showed a very significant 9.6% improvement in 6-week in-calf rate, a 3% higher 12-week in-calf rate, and cows conceived 8 days earlier when cows were metrichecked and treated two to four weeks after calving compared with late treatment (i.e. 4 weeks prior to planned start of mating).

### - BVD Testing

A BVD incursion into the herd will have a large impact on conception rate, empty rate, mastitis, cell count....and if this is present during mating it will result in the birth of PI calves next year, perpetuating the cycle. We can organize an automatic test of bulk milk to check for the virus and antibodies. If there is a concern, high risk animals can be blood tested and culled prior to mating.

### - Heat Detection

Tail paint should go on 4 weeks before PSM. Ensure staff have a refresher training session going over the signs of heat, with a clear plan as to who does what.

### Important Notes:

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#### School Ag. Day

School Ag. Days, Group Days and the bigger A & P shows all take place in Oct/Nov each year. Our website has some great information and advice, particularly for lamb rearing. See: [Lifestyle Blocks - Cambridge Vets](#)

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#### 5 in 1 Vaccinations

Cambridge Vets offer free 5 in1 vaccinations for Ag. Day calves and lambs. All you need to do is let our staff know what School your Ag. Day pets are attending.

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#### Lameness

One of the main risks of lameness is a previous case of lameness. Reducing the long-term impact inside the hoof is critical:

- Prompt identification and treatment.
- Use a block / shoe.
- Give an anti-inflammatory.

### - Bulls

Well grown bulls should be sourced certified tested negative for BVD and vaccinated annually.

### - BCS

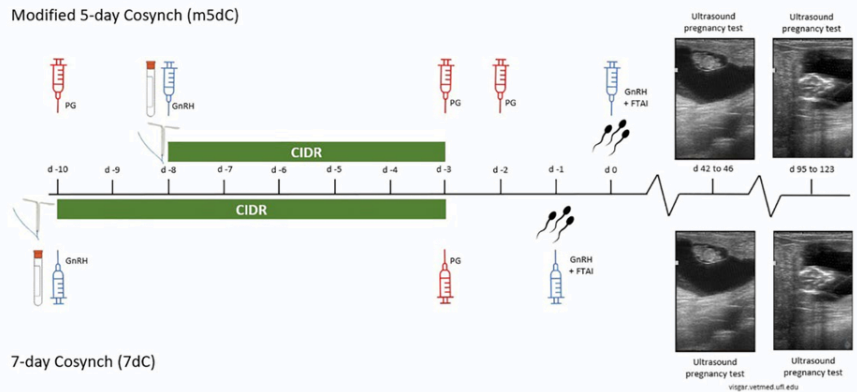
Nutrition and BCS underpin good performance, so the herd should be condition scored pre-mating.

### - Trace Elements

The trace elements status of herds has been highly variable, with some surprising deficiencies. B12, copper, selenium and iodine deficiencies call all impact on production and reproduction. Blood samples or liver biopsies are a sensible precaution before mating to check the mineral program is delivering.

### - Synchrony

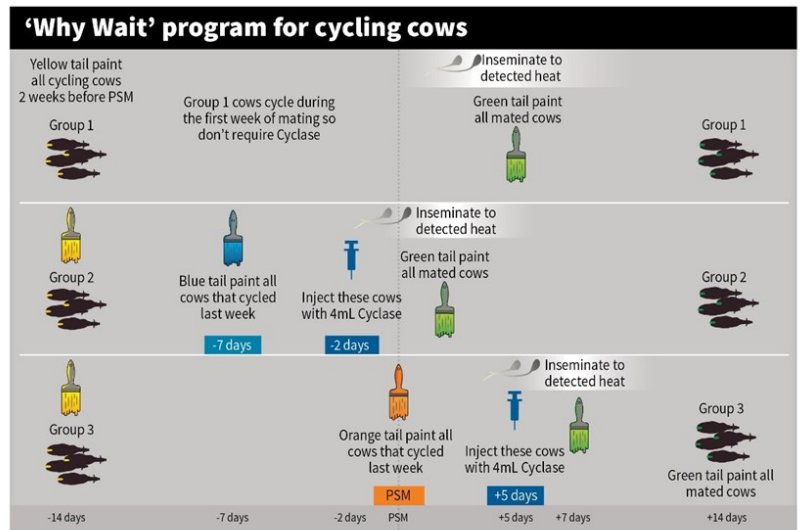
Synchronizing your heifers for a single day of AI will speed up the genetic gain of your herd. A recent innovation with 2 extra shots of PG in a treatment trial lifted the conception rate from 45% to 62%:



### NDOs

There are an assortment of intervention programs for non-cyclers. The Why Wait program uses prostaglandin to bring cycling cows on heat forward a week. Cows need to be tail-painted weekly, so cows that cycled 7-14 days before PSM are injected 2 days before PSM. Cows that cycled in the week before PSM are injected on day 5.

Progesterone devices are the best option for non-cyclers, with a range of injections to synchronize their heat to fixed time AI. A relatively new recommendation is to give 2 PG shots on consecutive days on device removal to lift conception rate by a further 2-4%. Ideally non-cyclers are treated before PSM for best return on investment. However, a recent trial of intervention for late cows in the second round of AI reported a positive cost:benefit (ROI of 1.74x) for treatments between day 24 and 28. It dropped the empty rate in these cows by 5.7%, and the overall empty rate by 0.6%, with 3.4 extra days in milk.



### Facebook

Did you know that Cambridge Vets are on Facebook? We have a page for both the Companion Animal and the Production Animal Departments. Follow our pages for topical news, offers and clinic Newsletters:



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### - Lameness / Mastitis

These inflammatory diseases have a well documented impact on mating. Using anti-inflammatories when treating them will help minimize this consequence. McDougall et al showed that use of meloxicam, in conjunction with antimicrobial therapy, for mild to moderate cases of clinical mastitis, resulted in a higher probability of bacteriological cure, an increased probability of conception to first artificial insemination, fewer artificial inseminations, and a greater proportion of cows pregnant by 120d in milk.

### Methane Inhibitors and GHG

A recent study in the Netherlands by van Gastelen et al, published in the Journal of Dairy Science, looked at the long-term effects on methane emission and milk production characteristics in Holstein-Friesian dairy cows. They added 3-Nitrooxypropranolol (3-NOP) into the feed as part of a mixed ration for a full year. The results showed a reduction in methane production (21%), yield (20%) and intensity (27%). This was affected by diet type, composition and energy value though, with greater reduction seen with high quality feeds (possibly these cows have fewer methanogens in the rumen to inhibit), thus it may not have such a big impact on a pasture-based system. Moreover we would face a bigger challenge of getting it into the cows daily. An increase was also seen in milk fat, protein and yield. How will our industry compete with or utilize this sort of technology?

### Cell count, Intramammary Infections and Drying off Strategies

An Irish study (Clabby et al) recently published in the Journal of Dairy Science looked at cell count, milk | cultures and whether a cow received internal teat sealant (ITS) or dry cow-ITS combination at dry off. 48% of cows received ITS, 52% got combination therapy. The average cell count at the end of season for these treatments was 55k and 197k respectively. 20% of cows had an intramammary infection (IMI) on milk culture at dry off and 90% of these were staph aureus. 12% of ITS cows had an IMI, and 30% of combi ITS-DCT cows had an infection.

Whilst we have a lower prevalence of staph aureus in our national herd, it is interesting to note that quite a lot of cows received antibiotics with no infection, and quite a few infected cows did not get antibiotics. This for me underlines the importance of doing milk cultures in herds with a high prevalence of Staph aureus, probably because the cell count is highly variable with these bacteria. The Mastatest system could be a useful tool on farm if this is the predominant bacterium in a herd.



### Wearables

Collars and ear tags are giving more and more health KPI information. There are some great programs available now for compiling your herd's data, and benchmarking it. Eating time, rumination, heat stress, cycling, lameness, transition assessment can all be monitored in real time for timely interventions or health reports. If you are interested in your vet helping in this area, please contact us.



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[futureproducers.co.nz](http://futureproducers.co.nz)



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# PROMO



This guide offers general advice only. For more specific information or to develop a customised program, speak to your vet.

CALVES		
<b>AT BIRTH</b> Inject calves on the first day that they arrive in the calf shed, to enhance their immunity, and halve disease such as scours and navel infections <sup>1</sup> .	<b>PRE-WEANING</b> Inject calves at or in the 4 weeks prior to weaning, to reduce disease caused by the stress of dietary changes and transport.	<b>AT VACCINATION</b> Inject calves at the same time as vaccination, to ensure a good vaccination response <sup>2</sup> .
HEIFERS & ADULT CATTLE		
<b>PRE-CALVING</b> Inject heifers and adult cattle 2-4 weeks prior to calving, to reduce clinical and subclinical mastitis <sup>3</sup> .	<b>PRE-MATING</b> Inject heifers and adult cattle four weeks prior to mating, to improve 6 week in-calf rates and empty rates <sup>4</sup> .	
BEEF CATTLE		
<b>CALVES</b> Inject calves at marking or weaning, to reduce disease and maximise productivity.	<b>PRE-MATING</b> Inject heifers and adult cattle 4 weeks prior to mating, to improve calving spread and reduce empty rates <sup>4</sup> .	
BULLS		
Inject bulls 12 weeks prior to them joining the herd, to improve semen quantity and quality <sup>5</sup> .		
DEER		
Inject stags at button drop, hinds 4 weeks prior to mating and fawns at or prior to weaning, to improve reproduction and productivity, and to enhance immunity.		

No withholding period is required when MULTIMIN® is used as directed. Read entire carton before use. Do not use MULTIMIN® at the same time as any other form of copper supplementation. Do not administer to animals suffering from liver disease, fascioliasis or which have been grazing on plants which may cause liver disease. Do not use MULTIMIN® at the same time as any other salt/mineral fertiliser, pill, or product without consulting a veterinarian. Do not exceed the stated dose. Do not administer to emaciated animals of body condition score less than 3/10. The safety of MULTIMIN® when used concurrently with other veterinary medicines has not been established in deer. Therefore, MULTIMIN® should not be given at the same time as any other treatments, e.g. anthelmintics or vaccines, in this species.

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Registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1977, No. 40274. 1. Bates, A.L., Wells, M., Lavin, R.A., Simpson, M. (2018). Effect of an injectable trace mineral supplement containing selenium, copper, zinc, manganese and chromium on health and growth of dairy calves on four pastoral dairy farms in New Zealand. *Journal of Dairy Science*, 91, 1-10. 2. Wilson, J., et al. (2013). The effect of injectable trace minerals (MULTIMIN) on health & reproduction performance in NZ Dairy Herds. *ACVM Newsletter* March 2013. 3. Marshall et al. (2012). Effects of selenium and potassium iodine injections on performance of beef cows and calves grazing rangeland. 4. Martin-Fernandez et al. (2019). The effects of injectable trace mineral supplementation on semen quality of bulls. Copyright © 2023 Alleva New Zealand Limited. All rights reserved. Alleva New Zealand Limited, 20-20 Havel Street, Auckland 1010. SP940401\_04/23.



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