



## IN THIS ISSUE

Sep/Oct'19

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## CLINIC HOURS

Monday-Friday:  
8:00am – 5:30pm

Saturday:  
9:00am - 4:00pm

Sunday:  
9:00am - 3:00pm



24 HOUR  
Emergency  
SERVICES



(03) 544 1200

## Getting Ready for Mating!

Calving is pretty much done and dusted—nice to get through relatively unscathed for most this year. It has been a good year for calf health thus far which comes as a relief after the previous 2 seasons.

Overall for us it has been a relatively smooth calving period; maybe a few more bigger calves out of heifers this year and a few more Johnes disease cows diagnosed early in lactation—but not surprising when you look at the season they have just been through.

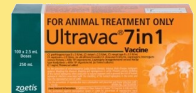
Get calving out the way and we are now firmly focused on mating performance. We have been doing a number of pre-mating trace element tests over the last two weeks which has been good. Iodine levels across the board were dirt low in the pre dry off testing round. We are still finding some low iodine readings in the premating round of sampling, highlighting the importance of rechecking and adjusting dose rates as needed.



### REMINDER:

Early vaccination of calves is recommended to protect against leptospirosis. Calves need two shots, 4-6 weeks apart.

Please give us a call at the clinic so we can arrange any orders for you.



## Shed Inspections

Every year during shed inspections, new areas are highlighted back to us regarding Restricted Veterinary Medicines. Everyone should have an up to date copy of their RVM consult script - I should have emailed them through to you post consult in the dry period. (Please sing out if you do not have it.) We have had some feedback around our medicine labelling also: there is a requirement for all RVMs we sell to have our practice label on them (listing contact details etc). Typically we put this on the outer (usually a cardboard box) rather than on the individual tubes / bottles. If product is taken out of the outer then it can be deemed to not comply... Seems niggly, but there you go! Please try and keep bottles and tubes in the box—this will not only satisfy audit criteria, but for most RVM's—best practice is to keep them out of light anyway!

# Pre Mating Heat Detection— why do it?

With the start of mating only 3-4 weeks away, now is the time to get your tail paint on... In my opinion it doesn't matter what your philosophy is on intervention on non cycling cows - **putting tail paint on the cows pre mating is one way that you can give yourself the opportunity to have some kind of control on how that mob is treated.**



We all know and have seen countless return on investment calculators showing the net positive return from early intervention of the non cycler mob. If you wait until 3-4 weeks into mating to intervene with non cyclers, there is actually a negative return on investment in some cases. Setting CIDRs and other hormonal intervention aside, other changes (like the once a day mob, increasing meal, use of bulls etc) will have a greater impact on your performance if you make the change early.

Continue to focus on the things that really matter; like feeding the cows properly, monitoring milk production and content and early detection of health issues. While you are at it, put yourself in the drivers seat with more information so you can make educated decisions around mating management.

## Why Wait Program

Good pre mating heat detection also puts you in the position where you actually proactively tighten up calving spread.

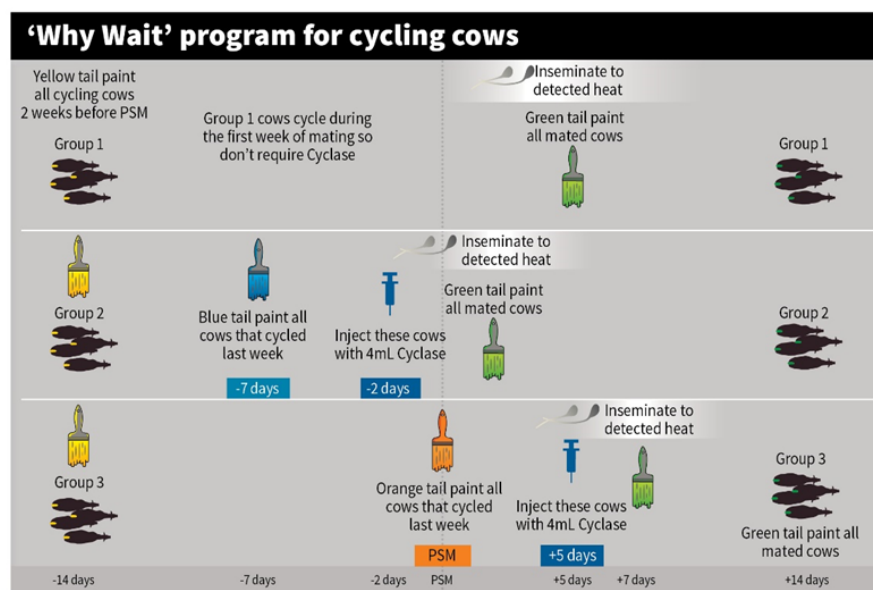
It's called Why Wait, and is designed to help maximise early in-calf rates, as part of a proactive mating management strategy.

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 below.



A large New Zealand study last season showed that cows mated to a heat brought forward by PG have slightly higher conception rates than their untreated herd-mates.

It is important to note the success of a Why Wait programme does depend on accurate heat detection, as well as good organisation and planning. The return on investment is excellent too, with \$40 to \$50 in additional milk income far exceeding the treatment costs.

**Give us a call and ask if Why Wait will suit your system.**

PSM = Planned Start of Mating

## Lame Cows - Think 'Pain Free'

Did you know, lame cows at mating can take 7-18 days longer than their herd mates to conceive?

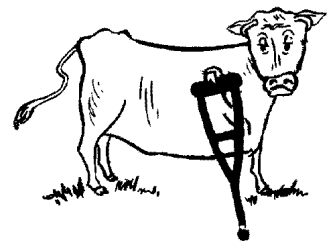
The link between lameness and poor reproduction is just one of the many reasons no-one wants to see any cows limping during the approach to mating, or any other time for that matter. If they are limping, there's increasing evidence that prompt pain relief can make a big difference.

It's not a magic fix – lameness is a complex, challenging condition typically caused by environmental and management factors, and these have to be addressed to achieve lasting improvement.

One of the very first effects of lameness in dairy cows, however, is reduced feed intake, often before you can actually see something is wrong. That's because bruised, damaged, overgrown or abscessed hooves hurt to walk on, and the cow that can't walk normally often won't graze normally either.

Adding proven pain killers like KetoMax 15% to the lame cow kit means you can quickly reduce pain and inflammation as you examine and treat injured hooves.

We are encouraging this as standard practice for farmers who want to get lame cows walking normally again – pain free - as quickly as possible. We all know that every day of reduced feed intake takes an immediate toll on milk yield, BCS, animal welfare and their own morale - especially in spring. We want to get the best possible result from any treatment, whether it's a simple hoof trim, application of a temporary block to support damaged claws, or veterinary intervention. Remember it can take weeks for a cow to recover from even moderate lameness. During that time, she can easily lose 0.5 BCS - don't be shy with the pain relief, it is cost effective and will make a difference.



## Promotions

**Buy a 5.5L but only pay for 5L**

**Normal retail price \$1259 - NOW \$1119 incl. GST**



**PLUS receive a free Christmas ham**



Also have the option of deferred payment until February 2020



Get in quick—promotion only while stocks last!