

Agilis Updates

Keeping Bulls on top of their game

As we get through calving, our attention needs to quickly turn to mating and preparing any bulls that may be required for the weeks ahead.

For breeding bulls to achieve their full potential, they need to be reaching peak conception rates during the mating period. They are often required to serve large numbers of cows, making it imperative that their semen is of high quality. Any diseases that may cause a fever in a bull may make him temporarily infertile, which may result in lower than acceptable conception rates or an increase in 'late' cows. Higher than normal body temperature can affect the quality of semen during the fever period. It may take up to three months following an infection for the quality of semen and sperm count to return to normal.

Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD), and Para-influenza virus type 3 (PI-3) viruses have all been shown to be widespread amongst New Zealand dairy herds. 60% of cattle have been exposed to BVD and generally, nearly **80% of herds have been**

exposed. Somewhere between 15-20% of dairy herds have a current active infection, meaning that persistently infected cattle are present (BVD steering committee website). Serological surveys have shown that **IBR prevalence may range from 60-80% in most dairy herds**, along with PI-3 prevalence running at nearly 100% in dairy herds surveyed (Motha and Hansen, 1998). Motha and Hansen showed the prevalence of herds with all three infections to be greater than 55%.

Hiprabovis 3 is a trivalent vaccine containing inactivated strains of BVD, IBR and PI-3 virus. This stimulates active immunity to all three viruses and acts as an aid in the control of disease caused by these viruses. Thus, a vaccination programme involving Hiprabovis 3 may help to ensure the continued health and wellbeing of bulls over the mating period by aiding in the control of BVD, IBR and PI-3. It is essential that bulls are working to the



maximum of their potential and getting cows in calf regularly throughout mating.

Hiprabovis 3 is the only vaccine available that offers any protection for bulls against all three viruses.

Bulls should be tested BVD negative and vaccinated with a primary dose 8-9 weeks before the introduction to the herd - with a booster given not less than 3 weeks before being introduced with the herd.

References:

- BVD steering committee website.
- Motha M X J and Hansen (1990). Prevalence of IBR, PI 3, BRS and BCV infections in the dairy cattle population of New Zealand. *New Zealand Veterinary Journal* **46**: pp239-240.

If you have any questions about our product range please phone your Agilis rep today.

0800 agilis

Healthy Hooves

EasyStride is a hoof care treatment to manage hoof infections by limiting the spread of bacteria on the hooves of your herd.

Free of heavy metals, formaldehyde and quaternary ammonium compounds (QAC), EasyStride is made up of two organic acids (Formic and Lactic), making it **eco-friendly** as well as people friendly being carcinogen free. Used as a 2% solution, it may be applied directly to the hoof or animals may be treated in a footbath. This compares favourably with the 4% rate that is required for formalin treatment, making it cost competitive and user friendly.

It is suitable for cattle, sheep or goats with maintenance treatments, and recommended 3-5 times a week or daily under severe challenge. **Using EasyStride will help to develop an effective hoof bath regime for hoof maintenance**, leading to optimal performance of the herd or flock.



Teat Cream that sticks

Teat health and condition is always important to the smooth and efficient collection of milk. Healthy teats are easier to keep clean, minimise preparation before milking and reduce the risk of new infections occurring.

Cracks and teat sores are painful and can lead to poor cow behaviour during milking. Teat soreness can also reduce milk let down. Pink Ointment is just one great tool to utilise for improving teat health. It should be used in combination with a detailed discussion on primary causes of teatend lesions and correct investigation into preventing the occurrence.

Pink Ointment is a topical antibiotic cream for the **treatment of superficial infection of teats and black spot in dairy cows.** Comprising sulphanimide, zinc oxide, calamine and paraffin oil, Pink Ointment soothes and promotes healing in cracked and damaged teats. Applied after milking, pink ointment is a cream that **readily adheres to the teat** and has no milk withhold (though it is recommended that teats are wiped prior to the next milking). It is packaged in a convenient 150g tube.



Did you know?

The average mammal takes **21 seconds** to empty its bladder.



No one will blame you if you've never bothered to time yourself on the toilet. But you may be interested to know that researchers from the Georgia Institute of Technology found that most mammals weighing more than six pounds take 21 seconds to pee.

According to Live Science, this oddly consistent time is due to the fact that the urethra is "appropriately scaled" to be a "flow-enhancing device." And apparently, the perfectly enhanced flow takes 21 seconds to complete.

Gestavet GnRH and Gestavet Prost



Planned start of mating comes around very quickly while already into calving, so it's time to consider the Gestavet range.

Gestavet GnRH and Gestavet Prost are guaranteed to arrive at your door in as pristine condition as when it left the manufacturer. This is due to a **guaranteed cold chain from door to door.** The stringent cold chain ensures there is no chance of degradation of the product due to temperature fluctuations that occur in transit. This becomes more important in the current Covid-19 climate with stock flows around the world potentially slower than usual.

Regarding Gestavet Prost, the potent additive **D-cloprostenol provides a greater affinity for ovarian and uterine tissue than its racemic counterpart DL-cloprostenol, therefore ensuring less collateral side effects on other tissues in the body.** The Levorotatory isomer L cloprostenol not only has no luteolytic effect, but also creates an esteric impediment in the receptors, impeding the action of the Dextrorotatory isomer. This results in a higher dosage needed when using DL-cloprostenol, leading to more collateral effects because of action on other tissues (the intestines or vascular system etc.). The Gestavet range is available now in 100 ml bottles.

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