

Dairy Newsletter

June 2021



CVC CLINIC NEWS

Welcome to our dairy newsletter for June 2021! Victoria's COVID-19 situation continues to keep us on our toes as well as a pesky problem with our internet and phone system so we apologise for any inconveniences over the past weeks and appreciate your patience. As the calving season continues, it is time to start planning for the year ahead. This month we have included an update on our reproduction prices for 2021 and provided some examples on recommended reproduction programs for heifers and cows. We also have some important information regarding BVDV in cattle and encourage anyone with further questions to pick our vet's brains if you think this could be a problem on your farm. We hope everyone is coping with the variable weather Winter has provided so far!

Camperdown Veterinary Centre

1 Leura Street , Camperdown

Ph: (03) 5593 1077

Hours:

- 8:00am – 5:30pm (Monday – Friday)
- 8:30am – 12:00pm

Dairy Drug Orders

Established dairy clients can request non-urgent drug orders to be delivered on farm any day. We will endeavour to deliver within 24 hours.

Please follow our CVC Facebook page to stay up to date with the latest COVID-19 news regarding clinic operations. Farm visits are still running as normal. Please be patient and call ahead for drug orders so we have time to prepare them for you.

Free Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus Bulk Milk Tank Testing for Dairy clients

In conjunction with IDEXX, Swans Veterinary Services will be offering free bulk milk tank Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus antibody testing to dairy producers across Australia (only applies to previously untested herds). The laboratory is hoping to explore the geographic distribution and impact of management decisions on the incidence of Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus (BVDV) within Australian dairies and expand their existing dataset to further understand the role BVDV plays in the Australian dairy sector. Simultaneously, we hope to drive awareness of BVDV and the excellent tools that exist to manage BVDV on-farm for dairies working with local veterinarians and the Swans laboratory. Please note that the testing and interpretation is free but there will be a cost to cover postage.



BVDV or "Pestivirus" is widespread throughout Australian beef and dairy herds. Although it's name implies a disease of the gastrointestinal tract, the condition more commonly has significant effects on reproduction and immunity in previously unexposed herds. Cattle that have never been exposed to the virus are considered "naïve". Some animals may develop fever or diarrhoea after infection although these symptoms are usually mild. The most significant consequences of BVDV infection are suppression of an animal's immune system and decreased reproductive performance. While the impact in adult cattle is often minimal, calves with naturally lower immunity and exposure to a high load of pathogens often develop more severe signs of common diseases. BVDV is spread through contact with a wide variety of bodily fluids from infected animals including respiratory secretion, uterine secretions, urine, milk, semen and faeces.

If cows become infected during key reproductive periods, there can be very serious consequences. Infection during pregnancy can result in significant foetal abnormalities depending on infection timing during a cow's gestation.

- **Infection at the time of joining** can result in reduced conception rates and increased early embryonic deaths
- **Infection of a cow between 40– 120 days** gestation results in production of "persistently infected animals" or PI's". PI animals are the main source of infection in most herds.
- **Infection during day 100-140 of pregnancy** can result in calf birth defects. Infected calves may be aborted, stillborn or born alive with defects such as blindness, fixed joints and tremors.

Why do antibody testing?

Antibodies to BVDV are produced because of an animal's immune system mounting a response from exposure to the virus. Positive BVDV antibody results indicate past or present persistently infected (PI) animal presence, as most infections result from exposure to PI's. BVDV antibody testing is used to measure herd risk, identifying groups of animals without immunity or groups that may contain a PI. Antibody testing allows veterinarians to measure the status of individual management groups and to prescribe the most effective intervention.

If you are interested in determining your herds BVDV status, please do not hesitate to call—we would love to help and have a chat. We have Bulk Milk Tank Sampling Kits available in the clinic with instructions on how to collect a good quality sample for testing.



CVC 2021 Reproduction Drug Prices

CVC would like to share our prices for reproduction drugs in 2021. We are using DIB-V and DIV-H intravaginal progesterone devices again this year and are recommending the addition of eCG to programs for first calving heifers, or high producing cows that may be experiencing a higher level of stress or nutritional deficiencies.

Drug/device	Price
Prostaglandin (PG) Estromil or estroPLAN 	\$90/ 100ml bottle
Vaginal progesterone devices for Cows "DIB-V" These are equivalent to CIDRs previously used. 	\$11 per device
Vaginal progesterone device for Heifers or Beef cows "DIB-H" These devices contain a more heifer appropriate dose of progesterone. 	\$8 per device

Below are examples of our recommended dairy heifer and cow synchrony programs.

Please note that if you have high producing cows (>30L/day) we recommend discussing with a vet the most appropriate progesterone device as high producing cows have differing hormone requirements.

Heifer Synchrony program

Cost of program per head is \$14.15.

This is the program we recommend for synchronising dairy heifers for fixed time artificial insemination. This program requires heifers to be handled 4 times. Note the use of oestradiol is only permitted in heifers. Ensuring heifers are well grown at joining is absolutely crucial to a successful breeding program. Heifers should be at 60% of their mature cow weight by 15 months to have the best chance of getting in calf.

Day	Treatment
0	AM: Insert DIB-H + inject 2ml oestradiol
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	Early AM: Remove DIB-H + inject 2ml PG. ± inject 1.5ml eCG
9	AM: Inject 1ml oestradiol
10	PM: Fixed Time AI (52-56 hrs after DIB removal)
Mating Start Date	

Cow synchrony program

Cost of program per head is \$19.80.

This program is suitable as both a **synchronisation** program and a **non-cycler cow** program. Heat detection can also be incorporated into the protocol if desired, if so all cows showing heat after DIB removal should be mated at the next opportunity. All remaining cows should then be inseminated within 14-18 hours after the second GnRH injection.

Day	Treatment
0	AM: Insert DIB-V + inject 1ml GnRH
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	AM: Remove DIB-V + inject 2ml PG. ± inject 2 ml eCG
9	PM: Inject 1ml GnRH
10	AM: Fixed Time AI 14-18 hr post GnRH injection
Mating Start Date	

If you would like some help designing a reproduction program for your herd, or would like to purchase your reproduction drugs for the 2021 season, please do not hesitate to call us on 5593 1077.