

By Tristan Kamps

Achieving your repro goals:

An interview with contract milker Ben Jagger



This Repro season has definitely had its challenges, and everybody deals with these challenges differently but not everybody manages to deal with challenges and succeed.

Someone who has managed to succeed this repro season is Ben Jagger, contract milker at Bunnings dairy farm in Fernside. I had the opportunity to talk to him and ask him about this season and how he managed to achieve such a step up in herd reproductive performance.

“Firstly”, Ben said, “It’s about setting goals and being open to change to achieve these goals.”

This is the last year on farm for the Jagger family and they really wanted to leave on a high note. But with this year’s poor autumn, winter and spring, achieving their desired results required a change of mindset.

Ben had been sitting on a six week in calf rate of around 65% for the past three years with an empty rate of around 16%. The goal for the last couple of years was to push past a six week in calf rate of 70%.

But then how to achieve this? “Planning for the following repro season starts just after scanning is finished”, says Ben. “It doesn’t happen in one year, this season’s results are an accumulation of the last three years of work”. Talks with the vets started early to decide upon a course of action to achieve these goals and with significant lower rainfall and grass cover last autumn and winter it wasn’t going to be easy.

I asked Ben what was done differently building up to this season’s mating? “Aggressive with body condition scoring in the Autumn and early drying off of risk animals, young and light”. “And then the cows were wintered in mobs based on BCS to achieve adequate weight gains in the winter”. “Only before calving were the cows split back up into mobs based on calving dates.”

But it didn’t stop there. After calving, at risk animals, heifers, lighter cows and non-cyclers were put on once a day milking to ensure enough reserves were build up for mating.

Continues on page 3

Pregnancy test results 2021/22
Page 2-3

Body Condition Scores Page 4

Lameness Page 5

Gram Negative/Coliform Mastitis
Page 6-7

Keeping an eye on the future
Page 8-9

Bone fractures in first-calving
dairy heifers Page 10-11

Teatsealing 2022 Page 12

By Tristan Kamps

Pregnancy Test Results 2021-22

With the final pregnancy scanning well underway, the question on everyone's lips is "so how did I do?"

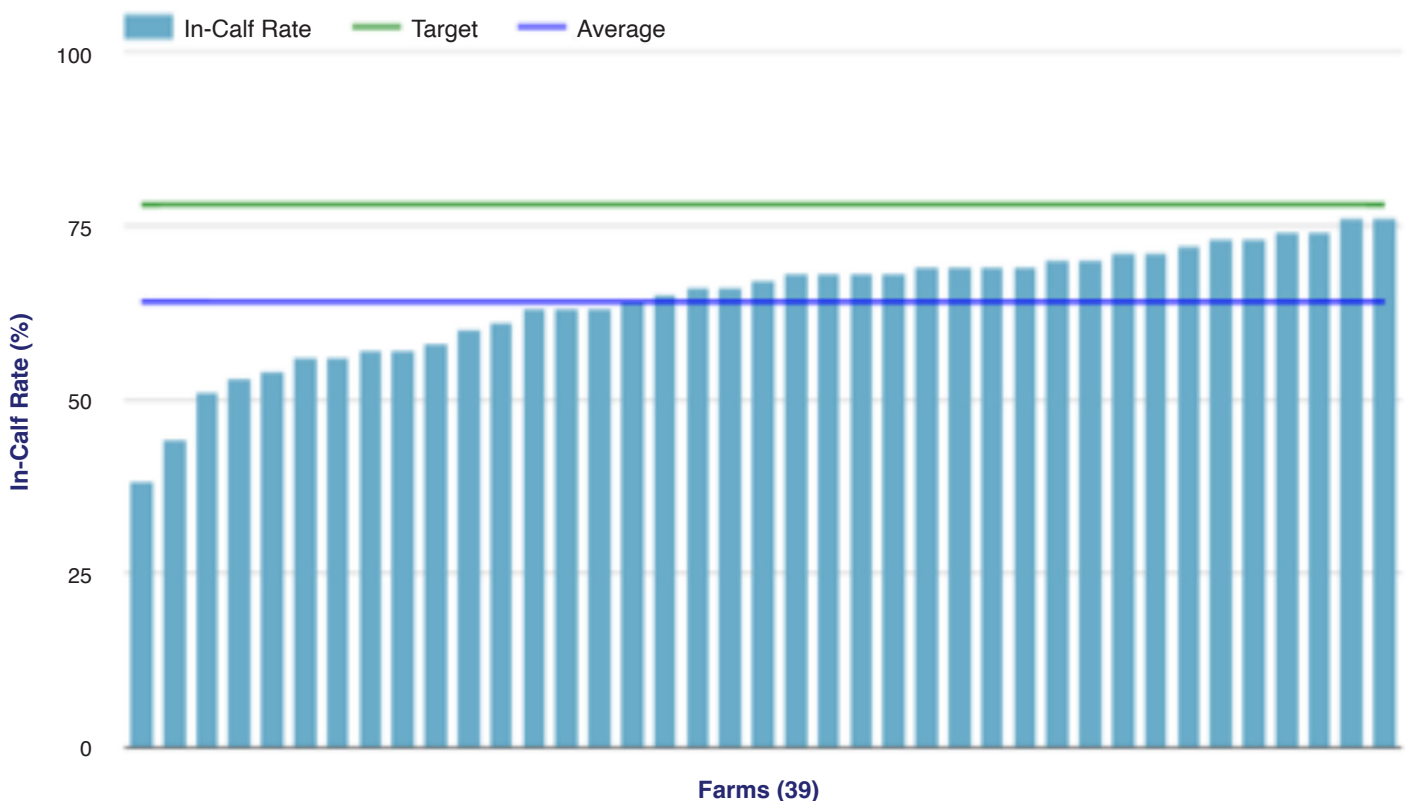
Generally, it was a mediocre start to the repro season, with a lack of sunlight, cooler weather and lack of quality pasture despite plenty of soil moisture.

Once your scanning results are finalised, it's a good time to review, reflect and look at opportunities for the year ahead.

Below is a graph comparing the 6 week in calf rate for farms across the region using Infovet.

While there is a lot of focus evaluating reproductive performance using the key metrics, 6-week-in-calf rate and not-in-calf rate, top performers tend to do well across a number of areas;

- growing youngstock well and regularly monitoring performance
- minimising BCS loss between calving and mating
- looking after first-calving heifers in their first lactation
- monitoring pre-mating heats to determine what early interventions are required
- implementing reproductive programs such as CIDR/Why Wait early
- keeping on top of heat-detection throughout the mating period
- early-aged pregnancy scanning to determine if further interventions are needed, for example, the use of short-gestation semen to tighten calving patterns



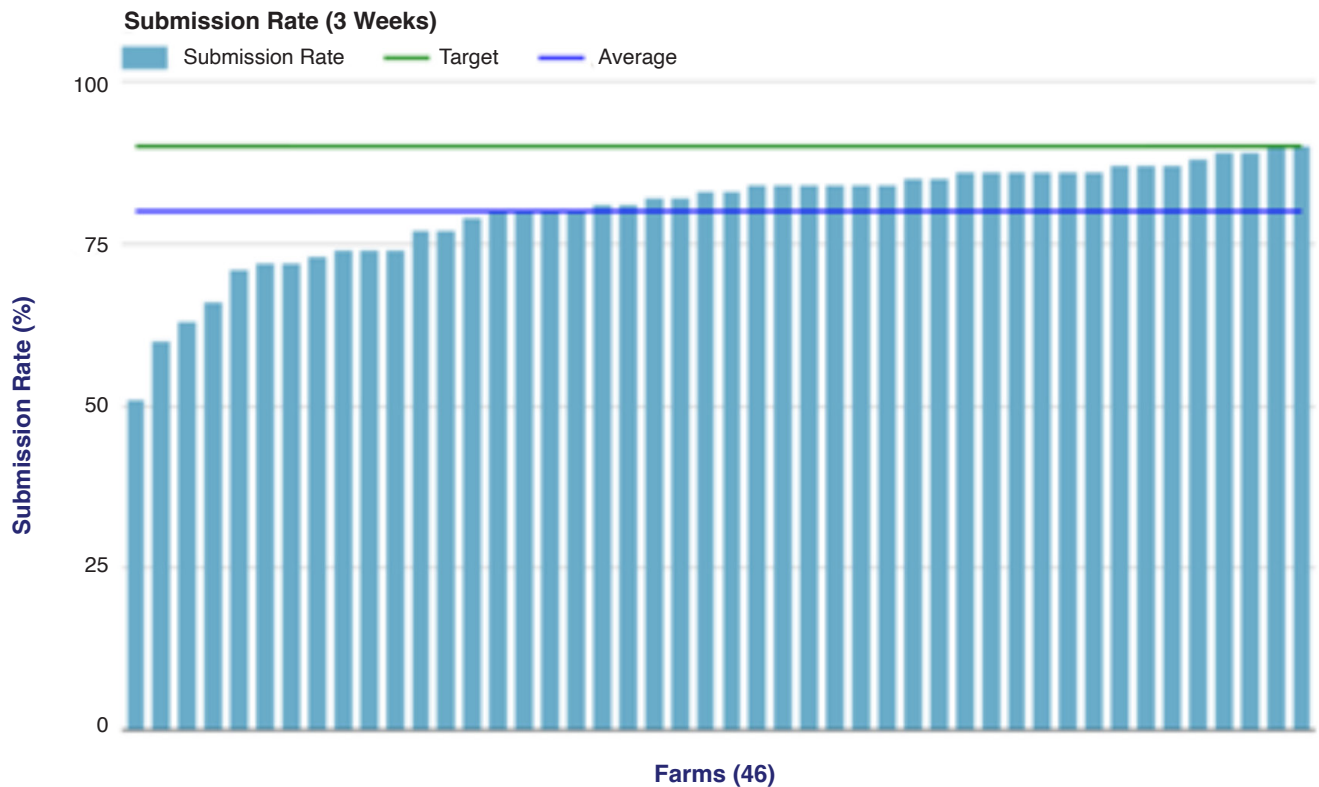
6 Week In Calf Rate

The blue line (at 64%) is our clinic average 6 week in calf rate across 39 farms with detailed records, whilst the green line (at 78%) is the target 6 week ICR for herds according to the Dairy NZ InCalf Programme. As you can see there is a lot of variation, with more than 25% difference between some results.

For a cow to get pregnant there are two key points that must happen;

- she must have a heat and be put up for mating (Submission Rate) – see next graph. and
- she must hold to that mating (Conception Rate)

Submission Rate & Conception Rate are the two key drivers of the 6 week in calf rate.



The graph above shows a summary of 3 week submission rates for MA cows (not heifers) across the district. The average 3 week submission rate was 80%, and most conception rates are sitting in the 43-55% range.

With a wide variety of ranges there are farms performing very well despite the season and others that may benefit from a boost in performance. If you are looking to improve your repro results, our large animal vets are all In-Calf trained and can go through your farm specific results to tailor a plan to help lift your repro performance.

Continued from page 1:

“You need to do the simple things well and have a great team behind you to be able to do what is necessary to make this all work”, Ben says. “And of course, having Pro Track is a great help as well”.

After the repro consult with RVC and Agrihealth, a plan was devised for mating which incorporated an early why wait program and one round of early CIDR treatments of non-cyclers.

Ben attests that the why wait program had a secondary beneficial effect of making sure that himself and the team were extra vigilant with the pre-mating heats. “If you’re going to do it, you might as well give it 100%”.

And the results for this season speak for themselves, a three week in calf rate of 59%, a six week in calf rate of

76% and a 11% empty rate is a fantastic achievement in anybody’s books.

When asked if the repro consults were valuable to attaining this year’s results, Ben replies, “Definitely, you need concrete goals to achieve, and the repro consults helped to build a solid plan around those goals. But two things are very important, you need to be prepared to change things up and you need a good team who wants to achieve the same goals”.

If this is something you’d like to be a part of then get in touch with the RVC team and book in a repro consult today.

A great example of farmer and vets working together achieving goals and facilitating positive change.

By Tristan Kamps

Body condition scores: Is your herd where you want it to be?

Autumn creeps up on us all, the days seem to get shorter and the mornings colder. Suddenly it's dry off time and the herds body condition score may not be where you're hoping it would be. Now is the time to get the herd ready for dry off and next season's calving.

In autumn body condition of the herd takes priority over production. April/May is a balance between getting as much production as possible, meeting cow BCS targets and achieving winter minimum feed cover targets. Monitoring growth rates weekly is a good way to stay on top of this.

Feeding for weight gain is a priority in autumn. Lush autumn grass with a low DM% and high protein is a bad diet for weight gain. Addition of supplements like quality silages, grain and starch-based feeds and crop help to gain condition.

If your herd has not been on grain or high starch feeds,

how they are introduced to these feeds is critical to maintain feed conversion efficiency and get the most out of your supplement. The milking cow gains condition more efficiently than the dry cow, but enough total feed and the right kind of feeds need to be consumed to achieve this.

Trace mineral deficiency, in particular of copper and cobalt, can also reduce weight gain especially this time of year. Selenium levels also need to be raised between now and calving to reduce problems with retained foetal membranes and uterine infections post calving.

With that in mind now is an excellent time for blood and liver tests to determine if extra minerals are necessary.

Now is an ideal time to body condition score the herd!

Body condition score is a good tool to be able to split the cows into groups to help you achieve the weight gain needed to reach ideal dry off targets. Strategic weight gain during late lactation gives the cows more time to adjust and grow, excessive rapid weight gain during dry off can cause many issues at calving.

Please get in contact with the farm vets at the clinic if you would like to discuss your on-farm feeding strategy. We will look into the diet and dry matter offered and consumed to ensure you are on the right track. As well as covering herd management strategies.

Rangiora Vet Centre offers whole herd body condition scoring. To book this in just give the clinic a call or go straight to the source and call Kellie.



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By Paul Blondell

Lameness

Hopefully most of your cows at the moment have full function of all four limbs, but understandably there will also be a few popping up as the season progresses (and the rain keeps falling). Lameness costs the New Zealand dairy industry millions a year and is the third most costly animal health problem in the world. Lameness is pain by definition and while it can be easy to check into procrastination station and leave it for tomorrow, it is always better to get on top of lameness early.



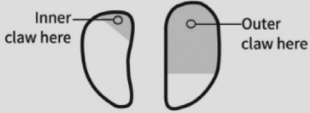
As you can see on the right (or left wherever the diagram goes) discussing all the causes of lameness can be like going down the rabbit hole. The key message is to do the basics and do them well! DairyNZ has many brilliant

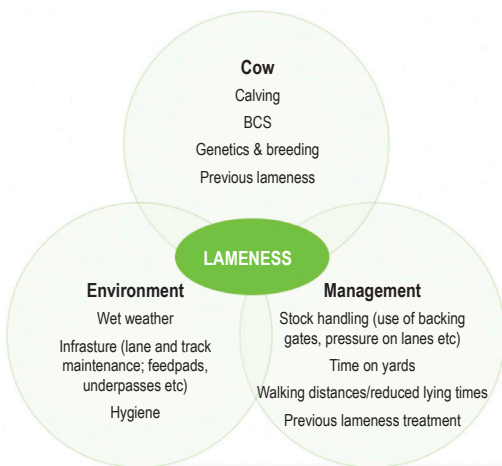
resources on their website on the causes and prevention of lameness. Well worth your time.

As for treatment, regular revision of hoof trimming technique is always worthwhile to make sure we are being as effective at dealing with, what is one of the most important parts of dairying in New Zealand. If there are any doubts, Veehoof does regular training seasons, or get in touch with one of our vets. They would be more than happy to run through hoof trimming technique with you.

In the meantime, do take some time to refresh yourself on the Dutch five step hoof trimming method:

5 Step Trimming Process

<p>FUNCTIONAL TRIMMING</p>  <p>1 Make the inner claw 7.5cm long. Leave 5-7mm thickness in the tip. Spare the heel.</p>	<p>2 Make the outer claw equally long and make the bearing surface at the same level as the inner claw (if possible).</p>	<p>3 Make a slope (scallop out) in the sole.</p> 
<p>CURATIVE TRIMMING</p> <p>4 If the outer claw is damaged, make this claw lower towards the heel, so that the weight is transferred partly to the sound claw.</p>	<p>5 Remove loose horn and trim down hard ridges.</p>	 <p>Inner claw here Outer claw here</p>

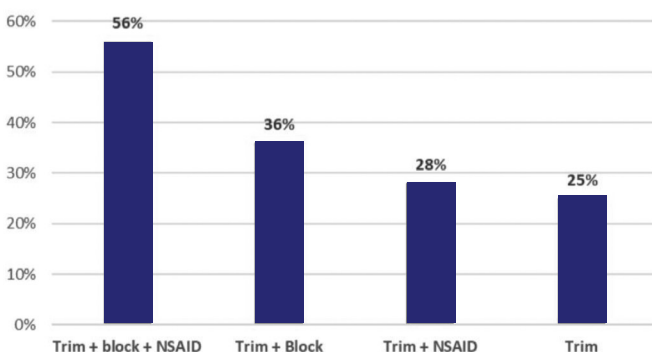


What about pain relief for lame cows?

Short answer: Absolutely, always and anytime you are unsure.

Long answer: Lameness is painful, and pain deserves to be treated just like any other disease. Some recent results out of the UK have looked at the effect of pain relief on cure rates of lame cows. Cows receiving a trim, block and NSAID (pain relief such as Ketomax) had a much higher chance (56%) of being cured at day 35 versus just receiving a trim and a block (36%).

Lameness Treatments and Cure Rates



Top Tips

- Ensure all staff are aware of how to identify lameness and the impacts of delaying treatment
- Having proper facilities and gear will make or break your ability to treat lame cows
- Ketomax for all lame cows will get your cows back up and running (literally) much sooner minimizing any animal health and economic impacts .

Don't hesitate to get in touch with your vet should you want to discuss a lameness problem or if you would like to conduct an on farm training session.

By Hannah Rowson

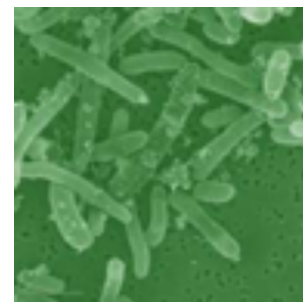
Gram Negative / Coliform Mastitis

WHAT is it?

- Gram-negative bacteria and coliforms such as *E. coli*, *Klebsiella* and *Enterobacter* are commonly found in the environment and faeces.

WHY is it important?

- Clinical case numbers of Coliform mastitis are increasing in New Zealand
- Coliforms induce a more severe inflammatory response, with the potential for systemic involvement.
- It's the toxins and not the bacteria which cause most of the damage.
- These bacteria demonstrate low sensitivity to the common antibiotics we use to treat mastitis.
- It can be fatal.



E. coli rods under a microscope

WHAT are the signs?

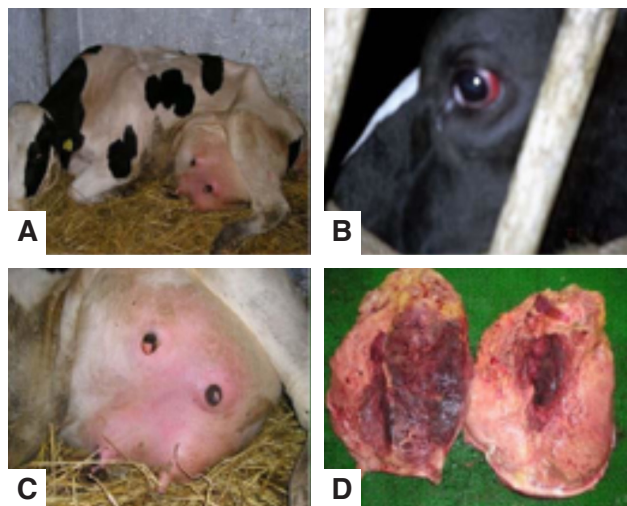
- Visual changes to milk, such as watery or blood contaminated, clots and flakes.
- Udder changes – heat, pain, swelling.
- Systemic unwellness – depressed, off food, high temperature, diarrhoea, in serious cases, down and unable to rise.
- Death can occur.

HOW is it diagnosed?

- Milk cultures – via Mastatest or lab.
- History and clinical signs.

HOW to treat it?

- Stripping out as much as possible. Coliforms are primarily a milk infection, hence emptying the milk as often as possible, drains the source of toxins out.
- ANTI-INFLAMMATORY drugs (KetoMax15%) are the key treatment
- Antibiotics have NOT been proven to help.
- Fluid therapy including pumping fluids into the rumen.
- Veterinary intervention.
- Coliform infections tend to be short duration but occasionally after a major inflammatory episode, high SCC and low milk production, it can persist in the affected quarter due to fibrosis.



The signs of a Holstein cow with *E. coli* mastitis.

- A:** Down, unable to rise.
B: Sunken eyes, due to dehydration.
C: Swollen, inflamed udder.
D: Infection of the udder tissue.



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WHEN is the risk period?

- Cows most at risk are newly calved cows, weak, down, or lacking energy cows.
- Adverse weather events, periods of high rainfall, storms or sudden changes of temperature
- Dry period management is critical. Infections can lie dormant until the first period of lactation (normally the first month).

HOW to control and prevent it?

- Reduce teat end exposure to faeces and maximise cow health and teat health.
 - ✓ Good dry cow therapy – teat sealants to prevent new infection.
 - ✓ Correct milking machine maintenance and set up milking routine to reduce teat damage.
 - ✓ Good milking hygiene – wear gloves and keep them clean! Wash dirty teats before applying cups, effective teat spraying.
 - ✓ Dietary fibre helps stiffen faeces to keep cows udders clean.
 - ✓ Trimming tails as cows calve also helps keep udders clean.
 - ✓ Environmental cleanliness for lactating, dry and calving cows.
 - ✓ Calve cows on as clean paddocks as practically possible.





VETS ADVICE

- Look out for cows showing signs of mastitis: changes to milk or udder, especially if the cow is sick in herself.
- Treat cows promptly with guidance from us.
- ALWAYS administer an NSAID (KetoMax15%) to a mastitis cow, even if you are still waiting on a milk culture result.
- Monitor the cow to ensure she is responding to treatment.
- Always check the 4 teats and appearance of milk (paddle test is a good idea) on a cow looking unwell, especially in early lactation.
- Use your Mastatest or get a sample to us ASAP!



WHAT can we do to help?

- If you are getting Coliform / Gram Negative results, contact us for advice.
- If you are experiencing mastitis cases not responding to treatment, get a milk sample into us ASAP!
- Milking routine inspections – we watch your milking process, check cup pressures and liners, examine teat end health and check teat spray administration. We then write a full report on our visit and findings and give you some guidance for improvements.
- Teat end scoring – we come during milking to score the teat ends to give an overview of teat health.

Score	Description	Illustration
N	No ring The teat-end is smooth with a small, even orifice. This is a typical status for many teats soon after the start of lactation	
S	Smooth or Slightly rough ring A raised ring encircles the orifice. The surface of the ring is smooth or it may feel slightly rough but no fronds of old keratin are evident.	
R	Rough ring A raised roughened ring with isolated fronds or mounds of old keratin extending 1-3mm from the orifice.	
VR	Very Rough ring A raised ring with rough fronds or mounds of old keratin extending 4mm or more from the orifice. The rim of the ring is rough and cracked, often giving the teat-end a "flowered" appearance.	

We are always here for advice, do not hesitate to make contact.

By John Spearpoint

Keeping an eye on the future - Managing your heifers



Heifers represent the future of your breeding herd. Dairy NZ recommends weighing heifers at least every 2 months.

GROWING HEIFERS TO LIVEWEIGHT TARGETS

We all know heifers are the foundation of the future breeding herd. They represent a significant proportion of the dairy herd and a high contributor towards total cost of producing milk.

Regularly weighing heifers is one of the most useful strategies to maximise potential lifetime production. Liveweights will give an accurate prediction of meeting growth targets and determine if intervention is required.

There are different growth patterns throughout the rearing phase for Holstein-Friesian, Kiwi Cross and Jersey heifers, so it is better to focus on heifer weight-for-age targets. Fertility and puberty are linked to weight, not age, so reaching pre-mating targets at 15 months optimises conception rates and allows heifers to calve earlier.

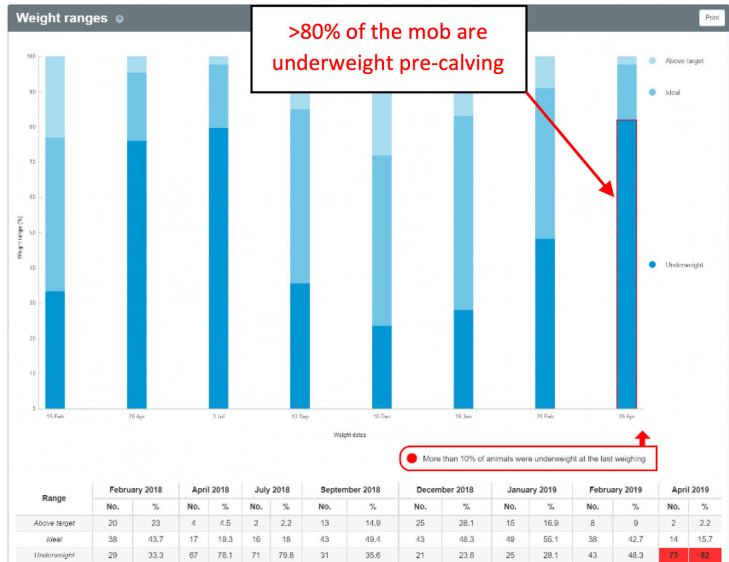
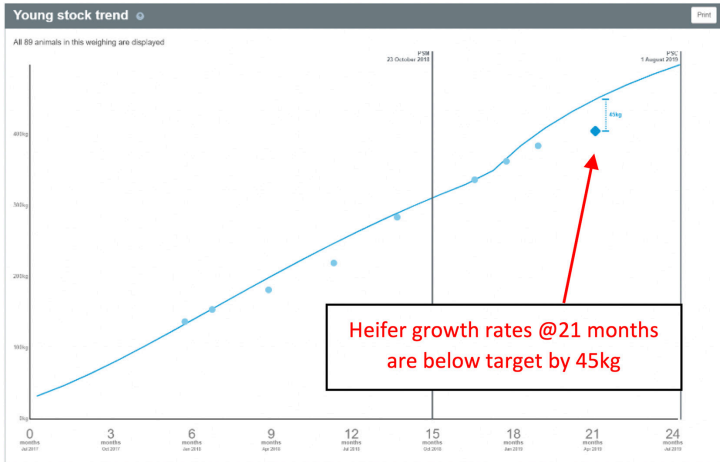
Age (months)	% of mature liveweight	Benefit
6	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More likely to meet puberty before mating start date
15 (pre-mating)	60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves conception rate Reduces risk of being empty
22 (pre-calving)	90 (BCS 5.5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fewer calving difficulties Improved milk production Better reproduction at second mating

Source Dairy NZ

As a general rule of thumb, heifer liveweight targets (LWTs) are 30-60-90% of mature weights at 6-15-22 months of age. Mature liveweights can be estimated using breed averages, or more specifically using liveweight breeding values (Lwt BV) for your herd.

Heifer pre-weaning and weaning management is equally important for a great start to life but is not covered in this article.

Weight records can be uploaded directly into MINDA Live. Information is then easy to interpret with graphs to show if average mob weights are sitting above, below, or on-target. Although this sample farm was monitoring weights regularly, average weights were starting to slip in February and by April average weights were 45kg below target.

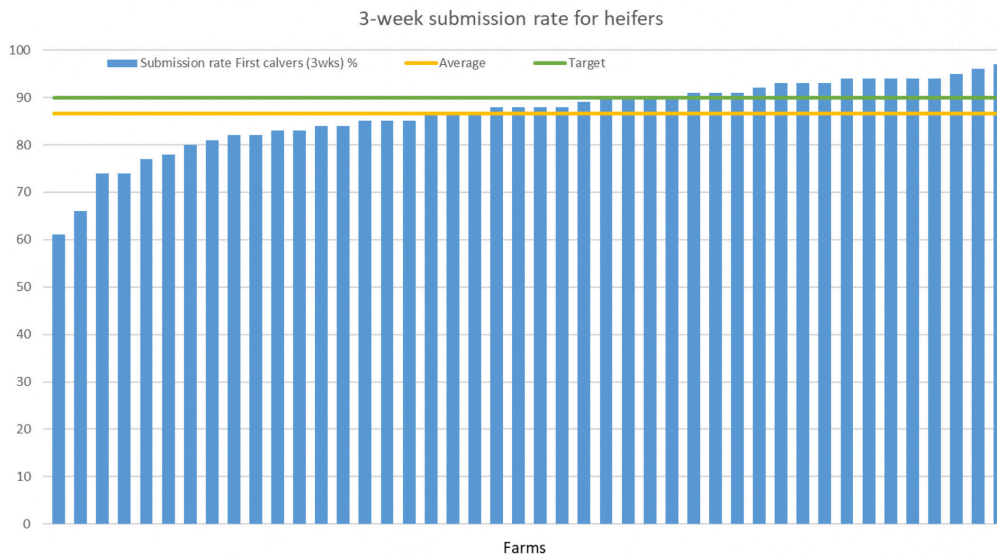


Using MINDA Live, further analysis of individual weights revealed >80% of the mob were underweight at 21 months of age. With PSC only 3 months away, there was little time to remedy this situation. It is likely these animals will struggle to hit pre-calving weights, with flow on effects into the mating period.

Regular weighing will allow you time to make corrections before critical time points such as pre-mating, pre-winter and pre-calving.

Heifers grown to a target liveweight are more likely to meet BCS targets at calving which means higher milk production and improved performance in the first lactation. Ideally, heifers should calve in the first 6 weeks since they typically take 2 weeks longer post-calving to start cycling again. Earlier calving heifers are then more likely to calve early in the following season as well as conceiving to AB at their second calving which will improve herd genetic gain.

First calving heifers need to be managed carefully to reduce impacts on reproductive performance. An Infonet analysis of the 3-week submission rate for heifers across farms in our district shows on average, heifers are



achieving an 86% submission rate within the first 3 weeks, but only 43% of farms are meeting targets.

A recent study reported in the Journal of Dairy Science also supports the **body weight of heifers is positively associated with reproduction and length of time they remain in the dairy herd**. Probably no surprises here, but the facts say it all. Nearly 200,000 NZ dairy heifers were studied over 3 calving periods; 92% calved for the first time at age 2, 76% a second time at 3 years but only 61% at 4 years of age. That's a huge loss with poor reproductive performance likely to be the major cause of cow removal from the herd.

BODY CONDITION SCORE IMPACT ON REPRODUCTION

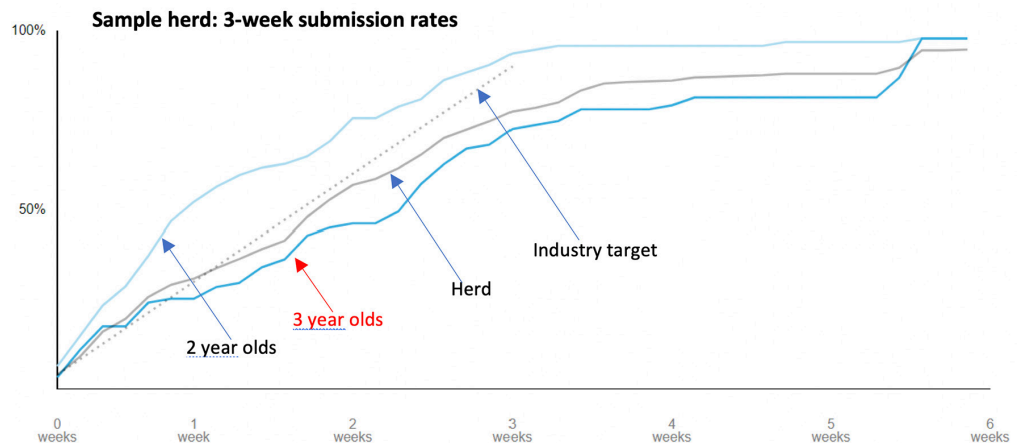
Sadly, these statistics show many cows are culled before the end of their second lactation and struggle to get back in calf.

BCS is a measure of a cow's fat reserves and therefore an indicator of a cow's energy balance. BCS is especially important during early lactation since it forms a buffer to balance energy demands against milk supply. Heifers typically lose more body condition post-calving as they utilise more energy to continue to grow and lactate.

Dairy NZ recommends cows should not lose more than 1.0 BCS between calving and mating. This means older cows should have pre-mating BCS > 4.0 and **2 & 3 year olds should have BCS > 4.5 at mating.**

An analysis of LIC data from spring 2019 indicated nearly half (44%) of 3-year-olds are not meeting BCS targets. Consequently, thinner cows take longer to get in calf which can mean calving later next season, or not getting in calf at all.

Overall, younger cows should be expected to perform better than older cows. Take the following graph from a sample herd as an example, comparing 3-week submission rates across 2-year-olds (light blue line), 3-year-olds (dark blue line) and herd (grey solid line). This shows, less than optimal 3-week submission rates for the 3-year-old cows is likely due to not achieving pre-mating BCS targets, earlier poor growth/weight performance or an extended calving pattern for first calvers. This age group represents a fair proportion of the herd and therefore a significant impact on reproductive performance data.



Strategies for improving reproductive performance in heifers

- Regularly weighing heifers to meet pre-weaning, pre-mating and pre-calving growth targets.
- Drying off first calving heifers ahead of mature aged cows to give them more time to reach targets as a 3-year old.
- Regular BCS assessments at pre-calving and pre-mating to determine if you're hitting targets and to identify at-risk cows that may benefit from preferential feeding.
- OAD milking 2 & 3-year olds to improve body condition pre-mating.
- Consider culling late calvers as they are more likely to be later calving the following season.
- Strategic use of reproductive interventions eg. CIDR & Why Wait programs to improve early submission rates

By John Spearpoint

Bone fractures in first-calving dairy heifers

This season we saw a number of dairy heifers affected by bone fractures in the front legs around calving time. These spontaneous fractures mostly occurred in the humerus, the first bone below the shoulder joint and sadly this condition is untreatable.

This seems to be a condition unique to New Zealand dairy herds and appears to be increasing across herds. A survey of over 500 farms in 2014-15 estimated 4% of dairy farms reported cases around calving, representing approximately 5,000 heifers per year.

Recently, there has been several research projects to understand why this condition occurs. A number of theories have been proposed and while each may contribute towards developing this condition, alone they are unlikely to be the sole cause.

Under nutrition

A growth check during skeletal development causes changes in how bone is laid down. During periods of reduced nutrition/feed shortage, less bone is laid down around the growth plates. These areas become spongy and may serve as weak points in bone strength.

This seems reasonable, but studies have revealed cases are not isolated to only stunted heifers and can occur in well grown heifers with normal length bones. Bone is constantly remodeling itself and changes as the animal grows, so the outward appearance of a well-grown heifer does not give a true reflection of bone density and strength. Another study concentrating on feeding different amounts during the first 4 months of life could not replicate this condition, but concluded changes developing in the humerus are relatively recent and most likely occur during the winter prior to calving.

Lactation

Bone is a major storage site for calcium and calving signals a rapid mobilization of calcium from bone to meet the physiological demands of lactation. Bone loss is also greatest in an animal's 1st lactation, so this is probably why we see this occurring in heifers around calving time.

Copper deficiency

The role of copper in bone formation is still not fully understood but copper does play a role in cross-linkage of collagen molecules which provides strength to bones. We

know that adequate copper levels are important for overall bone health as there are a number of other conditions which occur due to low copper levels eg. swayback, osteochondrosis dissecans, enzootic ataxia.

Genetics or environmental influences

Although the majority of cases seem to appear in the South Island, it appears there are seasonal and geographical variation among cases. There isn't a breed or genetic worth association, affecting 49% Friesian, 49% Kiwi Cross, and 2% Jersey. Feeding of fodder beet was assumed to play a role since low phosphorous levels in beet may affect calcium-phosphorous metabolism. But not all heifers on fodder beet had fractures and not all animals with fractures were fed on fodder beet. Aside from this finding, we still recommend supplementing heifers with phosphorus if grazing on fodder beet.

Copper deficiency can also occur due to interactions with other minerals in the soil such as molybdenum, sulphur, zinc, and iron. High levels of these minerals will prevent it from being absorbed from the gut. But considering copper deficiency and undernutrition are not new ideas it is possible there could be a genetic component allowing some animals to become more susceptible than others?

With the jury still out, these research findings suggest this condition is likely influenced by a number of factors and there is not one sole contributing cause. Despite a lack of answers though, herds that have experienced shoulder fractures in first calving heifers have been able to reduce the number of cows affected in subsequent seasons after supplementing with copper.

How should I monitor copper levels?

Copper levels can be determined using blood testing or liver biopsies. Blood testing, while cheaper and a whole lot easier to collect, will only give an indication of circulating copper levels in the blood and do not give an estimation of liver reserves until they become very low.

Liver biopsies are the most accurate measurement of copper sufficiency. More specifically, if there is sufficient storage of copper in the liver, then it is assumed there will be sufficient copper available for normal maintenance.

Supplementation is just like insurance
– you do it, so you don't have to worry.

R. Laven

Should we sample blood or liver?

I like to describe choosing which to sample using a water tank and water pipe analogy. Think of the liver, the storage organ for copper as the water tank, the storage area for water. Then think of the pipework attached to the storage area/organ - the blood circulating through the body and the water reticulating through the pipes. The storage area tops up what is removed from the pipes/body.

Therefore, if we take a sample from the storage area, then we have an accurate assessment of **what future reserves are available** - “sufficiency”. But, if we sample from the pipes, then we can only estimate **what is currently available** and cannot predict when it will likely run out. Consequently, and depending on the reason for sampling, if we want to determine if there are sufficient copper reserves to get through winter pre-calving, then liver biopsy is preferred. If we want to determine if current copper supplementation is adequate, then blood sampling is more cost effective. Also, if a couple of animals in a mob have low serum copper, then it likely the copper levels in livers of all animals in the group will be low.

How many animals to test?

If blood testing, preferably 10 animals to get a good representation across the mob/herd with a high level of confidence (90%). To estimate liver concentrations with some confidence (80%), at least 14 samples are required. Liver biopsies can be taken at the slaughter plant if more convenient, but remember this condition mostly affects first calving heifers so unless you are culling a lot of heifers sampling on-farm may be necessary. Taking samples before winter is recommended to give an indication of whether levels are deficient, marginal or adequate and to guide supplementation pre-calving.

Animal welfare is important

This is an extremely painful condition. Fractures occur in heifers spontaneously and result in very severe spiral fractures with bone fragments pushed into overlying muscle. All heifers with humeral fractures also had evidence of active or healed rib fractures. Therefore, overall bone health is likely to be affected.

Summary

- **Shoulder fractures occur mostly in first-calving heifers but also as 3 year olds.**
- **Under nutrition affects bone strength.**
- **Changes in bone most likely occur during the winter just prior to calving.**
- **The onset of lactation draws calcium from bones making them weaker.**
- **Copper deficiency has been linked to fractures (but not proven).**
- **Copper plays a role in bone strength, so monitoring levels prior to winter will help guide supplementation strategies.**

Unfortunately, affected animals need to be euthanised and should not be nursed in the hope they will get better with time. Seek veterinary attention if you start seeing cases in your heifers/herd.



By Kellie Grieve

Heifer Teatsealing 2022

It's almost that time of year again, heifer teatsealing - the joy and bane of both vets and farmers alike.

Every year we are starting earlier and earlier, with the first farm already booked for the last week of March. And even now the days are filling up fast! So, if you haven't already, give us a call to book your heifers in so they can have a great start to their milking career!

To help things run as smooth as possible, follow the checklists below and get in touch with Kellie if you have any questions.

Dry off checklist:

- Book in with Kellie or your vet for heifer teatseal
- Check yards suitable for heifer teatseal - Kellie
- Rubbish bins provided for the trailer.
- Heifers off pasture over-night (no one likes dirty techs!! Or a vet for that matter)
- Provide minimum 3 people to help on day for heifer teatseal
- Facilities to wash trailer once job is finished

END OF SEASON CHECKLIST

- Prescription medicines consult with your vet
- Pre Dry Off BCS with Kellie
- Leptospirosis Vaccinations (Herd, R1s and R2s)
- Order teat seal and dry cow products
- Trace element testing – talk to your vet
- Order winter minerals trace elements as required
- Farm staff training for new seasons staff
- Dry off pregnancy testing (catch those mid-term losses now)
- Winter stock movements – please talk to your vet about biosecurity in the current climate!
- Start thinking about calf health and shed hygiene. We can talk to you about minor changes to your sheds which may help limit the spread of disease, after last season this is something we would really like to help farmers with.

