



P.O. BOX 231, BALCLUTHA

BALCLUTHA CLINIC
Wilson Road - Phone (03) 418-1280
Fax (03) 418-1750
Merchandise Direct (03) 418-1281
enquiries@cluthavets.co.nz

MILTON CLINIC
Union Street - Phone (03) 417-8032
Fax (03) 417-8031

PLANNING TO INDUCE?

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Wednesday 23rd June, 2010

Dear Dairy Client,

Industry targets for induction reduction have now been finalised. You should have received notification of this from the industry stakeholders - Dairy Companies Association of New Zealand, DairyNZ, Federated Farmers and the New Zealand Veterinary Association.

The target for this year (15% of total herd size) will not affect many of you, but some of the other changes will. The most important of these is the adoption of early planning procedures: **cows must be identified and recorded by the vet on the "Farm Induction Plan" at least 60 days before start of inductions, and only these cows can be presented for induction.** Due to short notice, we will be unable to comply with this in many cases (60 days from now is 22nd August), but we will require that the farmer and veterinarian should have discussed all components of the procedure and agreed the list of candidate cows well in advance of the planned start of calving of the herd.

In order to create this "Induction List", we will have to see evidence of total herd size (e.g. Minda/Maestro/Infovet records) and evidence of stage of pregnancy (pregnancy testing records). If you are unable to provide these records, or have used other means to identify your late-calving cows (e.g. coloured tags), we can discuss the options available to you.

The other major change regards the timing of the first injection, which **must be between 8 and 12 weeks prior to expected calving date.** This is a tighter window than before, with the aim to reduce the chances of any calves being born alive.

Other changes will be discussed when we meet with you, but the usual criteria regarding age (3 to 8 years), body condition score (minimum 4.5; maximum 6.5), good state of health and absence of concurrent disease, all still apply. If you are concerned about any of these, please contact us as soon as possible. We can come out to assess the condition of cows on winter grazing and make recommendations regarding daily allowances and feeding strategies ("crop check").



YOUR VETERINARIAN
"THE ANIMAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL"

To achieve ongoing industry targets for induction reduction (8% in 2011; 4% in 2012) will be a major challenge for many of you. We will attempt to provide the resources that you need to overcome this challenge. The DairyNZ In-Calf programme will help. It provides a logical step-by-step approach to improving herd fertility, and we will be encouraging you to sign up to this. We already have 4 In-Calf advisors fully trained up, and will have 3 more by the end of July. Please contact us for further details.

We also recognise the importance of skilled staff in improving herd fertility, and will be offering a range of staff training events. Our free Wednesday evening seminars throughout July include one on “Managing calving with an eye on mating” (Greenfield Tavern, July 28th). Visit www.cluthavets.co.nz for full details of all our winter seminars. We can also offer smaller group, on-farm training on a range of topics, to suit your needs.

Managing BVD in your herd can be an important part of improving herd fertility. Our understanding of this viral disease improves every year, and we now have some excellent tests available to assess the impact of BVD on your herd. Many of you will have recently received a report and action plan based on the information we already have. Please contact us if you would like more information about BVD, or to request an action plan.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the coming season.

From the Dairy Team at Clutha Vets.

What you need to do:

- Sort out your list of induction cows now, and when they must be induced
- Be ready to prepare (in consultation with us) your Farm Induction Plan at the time of your PAR Consultation
- Information required to prepare your Farm Induction Plan:
 - Total number of cows due to calve
 - Ear tag numbers of cows to be induced, and ages
 - Pregnancy testing records, including date of testing
 - Location of cows from time of 1st injection
 - Plan for magnesium supplementation
 - Plan for trace element supplementation
 - Plan for adequate feeding of induced cows
 - Plan for euthanasia & disposal of any live calves born