



CLUTHA · V · E · T · S ·

Animal Health Centre

Pregnancy Testing Service 2009

“Safe and Accurate Scanning”



We will provide all the information you need to manage your calving pattern effectively.

- Accurate aging of pregnancies
 - enables good management of early-calving cows
 - enables good induction management.
- Accurate identification of Empty Cows
 - all empty cows assessed for suitability to “carry-over”.
- Comprehensive report provided.
- Competitively priced.
- Two vets for greater efficiency.
- High quality equipment.
- Scan at milking time in rotary sheds.
- Pit-fits and alloy platforms provided for Herringbone sheds.



Timing Of Pregnancy Testing

This should be discussed with your vet, and will depend on what information you require, your desired length of calving for the coming Spring, and whether or not you plan to induce any late calvers.

Using a scanner, we can detect pregnancies from as early as 3 to 4 weeks. However, there is still an unacceptable level of embryonic loss at this stage, which could lead to a high number of “surprise empties” next Spring. We generally use 6 weeks as the minimum age of confirmed pregnancy, since embryonic losses are minimal after this point.

Aging pregnancies is most accurate in the early stages (i.e. 6 to 10 weeks in calf). Your first scan should be between 6 and 10 weeks from the mating date cut-off point you wish to identify. This will allow best possible management of your feed resources at calving time. For most farmers, practically this means identifying cows calving in the first 4,6,or 8 weeks.

The national benchmark for mating performance is the 6-week in-calf rate. We encourage you to use this, rather than comparing “Empty Rates”.

For Planned Start of Mating 1st November 2008:

	I want to know which cows will calve in the:		
	1st 4 weeks	1st 6 weeks	1st 8 weeks
Best time for 1 st scan	10 th Jan → 7 th Feb	24 th Jan → 21 st Feb	7 th Feb → 6 th March

So, if you started mating on 1/11/08, and AB'd for 6 weeks (Bulls In on 13/12/08),and you want to know which cows are in-calf to AB, then you should book your scanning between 24/1/09 and 21/2/09.

If you wish to calve for 8 weeks next spring, and just want to know late calvers (potential induction candidates) and empties, then scan between 7/2/09 and 6/3/09.

Any cows found to be empty on this visit will be rechecked 6 to 8 weeks later, with confirmation of empties at least 6 weeks after the bulls have gone.

Management Of Late Calving Cows

We are committed to working with you to minimise the number of inductions necessary in your herd, and to minimise the welfare risks associated with inducing cows. This is in accord with the Induction Code.

With respect to welfare, cows must be induced at a stage when the calf is unlikely to be born alive. This involves giving the cows a “first shot” between 6 and 12 weeks prior to an expected calving date. This can only be achieved by accurate early pregnancy testing, and good record keeping.

If you have an extended mating period (>14 weeks, or beyond 7th Feb for a 1st Nov PSM), then you will require an additional scan to allow for accurate aging of late calvers.

One of the ways to help minimise inductions (apart from pulling the bull out early) is to induce early! This allows time for the cow to “sort herself out” before next year’s mating. Again, accurate early pregnancy testing is required to identify these cows. This will also allow for preferential treatment of these cows prior to induction (nutrition, Selenium status etc).

It will not be acceptable to be inducing cows in late October because they “haven’t bagged up yet”.

Equipment Options

Most of our pregnancy testing is now done using a backpack scanner. Between Balclutha and Milton we now have five of these, to allow for the ever-increasing demand for their use. They allow excellent manoeuvrability, and are also ideal for scanning heifers, carry over cows or beef cows in a race situation even if your facilities aren’t quite as good as those in the photo on the front page! We’re pleased to be able to add these to our range of equipment, which includes the “TV Scanners”, and a selection of right and left arms.

For herringbone sheds, we can provide excellent pit-fit equipment, including metal tread boards. You must arrange to borrow these well in advance of your visit. For greater efficiency, please arrange to pick these up and set them up prior to our arrival. There will be a set-up fee if we bring them ourselves.

For rotary sheds we are happy to pregnancy test at milking time. For larger herds we can send out two vets to speed up the job. Vet stands should be slightly higher than the level of the platform, and provide adequate grip. Extending the platform to give us more room to work will make the job more efficient.

Reports

We can produce a computer printed report of your results. This is presented as lists of different groups of cows, according to their stage of pregnancy (e.g. “Naturally Calving”, 1st Inductions, 2nd Inductions, Empty etc) and is a useful and convenient management tool. We also provide an analysis of your reproductive performance for the season allowing you to benchmark against other farms in the area. The feedback on these has been excellent and we plan to continue improving this service. We can also work with MindaPro, and aim to have direct electronic data capture available this year.

Reproduction Service

We are here year round to investigate any problems that may arise, (e.g. poor fertility, abortions, RFMs) and perform “routine” services such as inductions, metrichecks and non-cycling cow examinations. We won’t just come in, PD the cows and leave, not to be seen again until the next year! The better we get to know you, your cows and your farm, the more help we can offer you.

Identification Of Cows

Every year we have problems with unreadable or dirty ear-tags, double-ups, or cows with no tag at all!

Now is the time to go through the herd and check that all ear-tags are present, readable and unique.

Leptospirosis

Cows and heifers can be vaccinated against Leptospirosis at the same time as pregnancy testing, if the timing is appropriate.

Arranging Your Visit

This is a busy time of year for us, so please speak to your vet as soon as possible to arrange a visit – **03 418 1280** or email: admin@cluthavets.co.nz

www.cluthavets.co.nz



Balclutha	418 – 1280
Milton	417 – 8032
Clydevale	415 – 9121
Henley	486 – 2738
Owaka	415 – 8179
Lawrence	485 – 9008