



# Heat Detection

The most important job on your farm for the next six weeks (or more)?

Good heat detection is not just about observing the signs of a cow on heat it is also what each of your farm team do with that information. Is everyone on your farm aware of their role in the heat detection system?

- Have all your calving dates been entered into Minda?
- Are all ear tags clean (check that electronic tags/collars are working for ALL cows)
- Are the drafting gates all functional?
- What heat detection aids (tail paint, other detectors) are you using, how are they being applied, do all staff know how to apply them correctly?
- How often are heat detection aids being reapplied and by whom?
- Do all staff know the signs of a cow on heat?
- If someone sees a cow on heat, where does this information go (whiteboard, Protrack, pass it onto the Manager)?
- Where are the on-heat cows going to wait for the AB Technician?
- Who is responsible for returning the mated cows to their appropriate mob after AB?

A quick farewell to Dr Tim Montgomery. You may have bumped into him while on call. Go well mate, you have been a great colleague and a good friend.

## Farm Management Plans

Richard will be contacting you regarding our Farm plans. A service provided by The Vet Centre for all our production animal clients.





# FOALING MARES

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Remember that the afterbirth in mares must be removed early to maximise conception. If the cleanings are still hanging out after 3 hours call our clinic for a vet to come & clean her out.

Welcome to our Breeding Vet Giulia Caretto

We are excited to welcome an equine veterinarian Dr. Giulia Caretto to our team in September.

Giulia's speciality is in equine reproduction and she also holds a Masters degree in equine sports medicine. She has extensive experience in the equine industry, working in the field of equine reproduction since 1998.

Giulia has been working overseas as the lead vet for stud work in Italy, France and Australia and comes with a recommendation from Australia that her frozen semen conception rates are well above average.

Giulia successfully runs her own breeding centre, competing with and breeding her own eventing horses.

So if you are thinking of getting some frozen semen to try out of some new breeding lines, then now is the time, while we have the expertise available.

Please call 0800 HORSEVETS (0800 46 77 38)  
or directly to one of our clinics to book the equine service you require.  
Pukekohe: 09 238 6897 OR Waiuku: 09 235 9217

Kind Regards,

The Equine Management Team



## Parasites: why treat heifers & cows pre-mating?

Improving milk production and conception rates will also be high on the agenda. One way to help achieve these targets is to minimise the effect parasites have on cows.

Parasites cause production losses in two ways. The first is the direct effect they have on the gut lining, impairing digestion and absorption of nutrients.

The second is how the animal's immune system diverts proteins (immunoglobulins) and inflammatory cells to combat parasites. If no parasites are present, these proteins can be used to maintain or improve productivity or enhance reproduction.

As a general rule:

- Young, thin, recently calved, mineral or nutrition deficient animals are most susceptible to parasites than older, good conditioned, well-fed animals.
- Parasite infections are likely to have a greater effect on poor conditioned and younger animals.
- Larvae generally only migrate 5cm up the leaf of plants. If cattle graze down too low sward covers, they are likely to ingest more parasites pastures that may be significantly parasitised are those grazed by young stock or stressed (immuno-compromised) cows.
- Just like wounds on skin, damage to the gut lining takes time to heal.

Animals treated as a "last resort" prior to mating will not response adequately within a short period of time.

When proactive, strategic treatments are used, there is more time to improve nutrient absorption and condition and, therefore conception.

If there is a risk that stock are being exposed to parasites prior to mating, and they are in less than desirable condition, anthelmintic treatments are a viable option.

The aim of treatment is to prevent the establishment of parasite larvae for as long as possible until the body's immune system is capable of achieving this for itself.

We recommend Genesis Pour On. Gastrointestinal worms have been shown to impact the performance of cattle due to the impact of parasitic disease on animal health. Studies have shown that effective control of gastrointestinal worms can result in significant production advantages compared to cattle with uncontrolled worm burdens. Studies have also shown that controlling worm burdens in mid-lactation may result in better milk production increases compared to worm control at dry off or calving.



The NIL milk withholding period of GENESIS Pour-On allows dairy farmers the flexibility to benefit from effective worm control with an endectocide treatment at any stage of production.

**References:** Victora Chapman, veterinary advisor, Zoetis & Ancare

<http://www.ancare.net.au/genesis%20AE-pour-on.htm>





### Fonterra FEI Grading



Several Factors can negatively affect farmers fat evaluation index (FEI) number for their herds.

Fortunately, 501 Chicory is not one of them. That's great news for any farmers who want to keep milk in the vat up, and grades down, this summer.

With Fonterra's new FEI Grading System taking effect this month, there's still plenty of time to plant Chicory for high value summer feed that avoids FEI penalties. "We're already seeing a lot more interest in 501 Chicory this spring as farmers prepare for the grading system," says Richard Doney, Upper North Island area manager for Barenburg Agriseeds.

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"FEI demerits will be as high as 20% of the price of milk collected on the day, if the grade standards are breach. Farmers are thinking ahead about the best way to manage this if they have previously relied on importing high levels of PKE to keep cows well fed through dry summers conditions."

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501 Chicory has no effect on FEI grading and, even better, Doney says, well-grown crops of this increasingly popular forage herb cost about half the price of PKE per of dry matter.

501 Chicory will help keep milk production up and grades down this summer.

Protein and metabolisable energy (ME) are higher; cows love Chicory and you don't need machinery to feed it out. "It's also an excellent way to renew run-out paddocks. By spraying these out now and sowing Chicory for summer crop, you prepare a good seedbed for new grass and clover in Autumn.

"Poor quality pastures don't grow much DM over summer, and feed quality is usually low so it's an efficient way for our farmers to turn some of their worse paddocks into their best for next season."

This is particularly useful where pasture pests and weeds like black beetle and yellow bristle grass are a problem, because 501 Chicory disrupts the infestation cycle.

"As long as farmers spray grass weeds out of their Chicory crop, black beetle will pack their bags and leave in search of other feed. The same applies to most other pasture pests, so unlike turnips, no insecticide spray if required once the crops is established."

An annual-type Chicory, 501 is quick to establish, and outgrows other perennial types over summer by as much as one full grazing.

