

Endometritis— Early Treatment the Key.

Infection in the uterus post calving can have a significant impact on the time it takes a cow to get back in calf. A study in the Waikato a few years ago showed that even cows with a few flecks of pus in the vaginal mucus 4 weeks before calving took on average 7 days longer to conceive. Risk factors that increase the chance of cows having an infection include assisted calvings, RFM's and milk fever.

Metrichecking is a quick effective method of detecting cows with endometritis. Experts recommend a whole herd check, not just the at risk cows. Cows need to be calved at least 14 days to be metrichecked, and the sooner after calving they are checked the sooner the infection can be cleared with treatment . A study in Australia has found that treatment of endometritis between 14-28 after calving is more effective than treatment given after 28 days. Suggesting that early diagnosis and treatment is preferable.