

SYNCHRONY -THE KEY TO A COMPACT CALVING?

It is still possible to maintain good reproductive performance in dairy herds without synchronization and Timed A.I., but it requires an effective heat detection program. Unfortunately, maintaining an efficient heat detection program and quality heat detection personnel can be a never ending challenge in today's expanding herds. As the accuracy and efficiency of oestrous detection declines, the value of incorporating synchronization and Timed A.I. into the reproductive management program increases proportionately. By grouping cows that calve within a one or two week window, cows can be systematically synchronized to allow for maximum pregnancy rates and minimal labour inputs. It is easy to get confused by the variety of protocols available; however, this variety provides flexibility in developing a tailor-made reproductive management program for you.

For example The "Why Wait" program involves a single injection of prostaglandin in cows that have been cycling in the 10 days prior to the start of mating. The result is that these cows are mated in the first week, instead of late in the second or third week. The advantages include more days in milk if they conceive, or at least 2 chances at AB within the first 28 days of mating. Another option is a full synchrony program. This option, while more expensive, gives much better results in terms of increasing submission rates (all animals get mated) and helps reduce some of the problems associated with heat detection and AI management. If you would like more info on whole herd synchrony then you can talk to Chris, one of our vets who synchronised his entire herd when sharemilking.