



TATURA MOOSLETTER

JULY 2010



SYNCHRONY PROGRAM DOUBLES CONCEPTION RATE

At a recent cattle vets conference the results of a heat synchrony trial was presented. The trial involved over 500 cows in a large dairy herd in the Western District, and compared the standard Ov-Synch Program with a modified version which included a drug called **Pregnecol**.

The Ov-Synch program involves a series of 3 injections over 10 days, finishing with a 'set-time' insemination of all cows in the program. In our experience the Ov-Synch program has variable results - in some herds it works very well, but is disappointing in others. The Ov-Synch program is described next page in **Table 1**.

The addition of Pregnecol in the modified Ov-Synch program in this trial nearly doubled the conception rate in older cows. The modified Ov-Synch program is shown next page in **Table 2**.

These results are very encouraging, but unfortunately some limitations were identified. Pregnenol was not so effective in younger cows, cows calved more than about 4 to 5 months and non-cyclers. A dose of Pregnenol costs about \$9, but we are currently trying to source a cheaper version of Pregnenol.

The trial is being expanded to see how Pregnenol can be applied cost effectively in a range of synchrony programs. Its use with CIDRs and CuMates is also being looked at - although this may end up being quite expensive.

At this stage it appears that Pregnenol would be useful in some mating programs for selected cows.

We will report further developments.

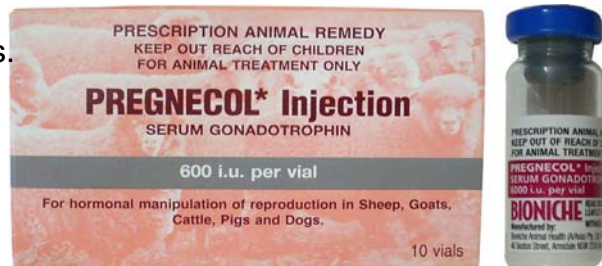


Table: 1 Ov-Synch Program

Step 1	Day 0	Inject Gonabreed
Step 2	Day 7	Inject Prostaglandin
Step 3	Day 9 (PM)	Inject Gonabreed
Step 4	Day 10 (AM)	Inseminate all cows
Cost = Approximately \$10		

Table 2 Modified Ov-Synch Program

Step 1	Day 0	Inject Gonabreed
Step 2	Day 7	Inject Prostaglandin
Step 3	Day 9 (PM)	Inject Gonabreed AND Pregnecol
Step 4	Day 10 (AM)	Inseminate all cows
Cost = Approximately \$19		

CALVING INDUCTION

Calving induction is a procedure that has lost some of its popularity in recent years. Many dairy farmers are reluctant to induce late cows but see it as a management tool to improve dairy farm productivity.

We also recognize calving induction has its problems, however these are generally minimized if the procedure is done with due care. Most farmers would be aware of the unfortunate downsides of calving induction.

If the good pasture growing conditions of this current season continue there may be compelling reasons to induce late cows to properly utilize available feed, and hopefully get some late calving cows back into step with the herd.

We prefer to induce late cows during **August** and **early September** rather than later in the spring for a number of reasons:

- Better use is made of pasture
- Many of the health issues associated with calving induction are more common in cows induced later in the spring
- Inducing cows early allows more time to get them back in calf early in the spring joining

If you are considering calving induction, now is the time to be planning:

- Induced cows should be dry for at least 6 to 8 weeks
- Induced cows should be no fatter than Condition Score 5
- Induced cows should be more than 6 months pregnant
- Don't present cows for induction if you want keep their calves
- Cows with chronic disease problems (eg mastitis) should not be induced
- Health problems are dramatically increased in cows over 8 years old

If you require assistance with decisions about calving induction please contact the clinic.

