

Treating non-cycling cows early is still a worthwhile investment

The benefits of treating non-cycling cows early (so these cows are inseminated during the first few days of the mating period) are

- Cows get in calf earlier
- Treated cows have more days in milk the following season
- More AB heifer calves
- Tighter calving spread
- Fewer non-cycling cows requiring treatment the following season
- These benefits far exceed treatment costs even when milk payout is low

	DIB-Synch Plus Program
Additional days in milk	19
kg MS / day	1.6
\$ / kg MS	\$4.50
Additional milk income	\$137
Costs	\$45
Profit	\$92
Return on Investment	3 : 1

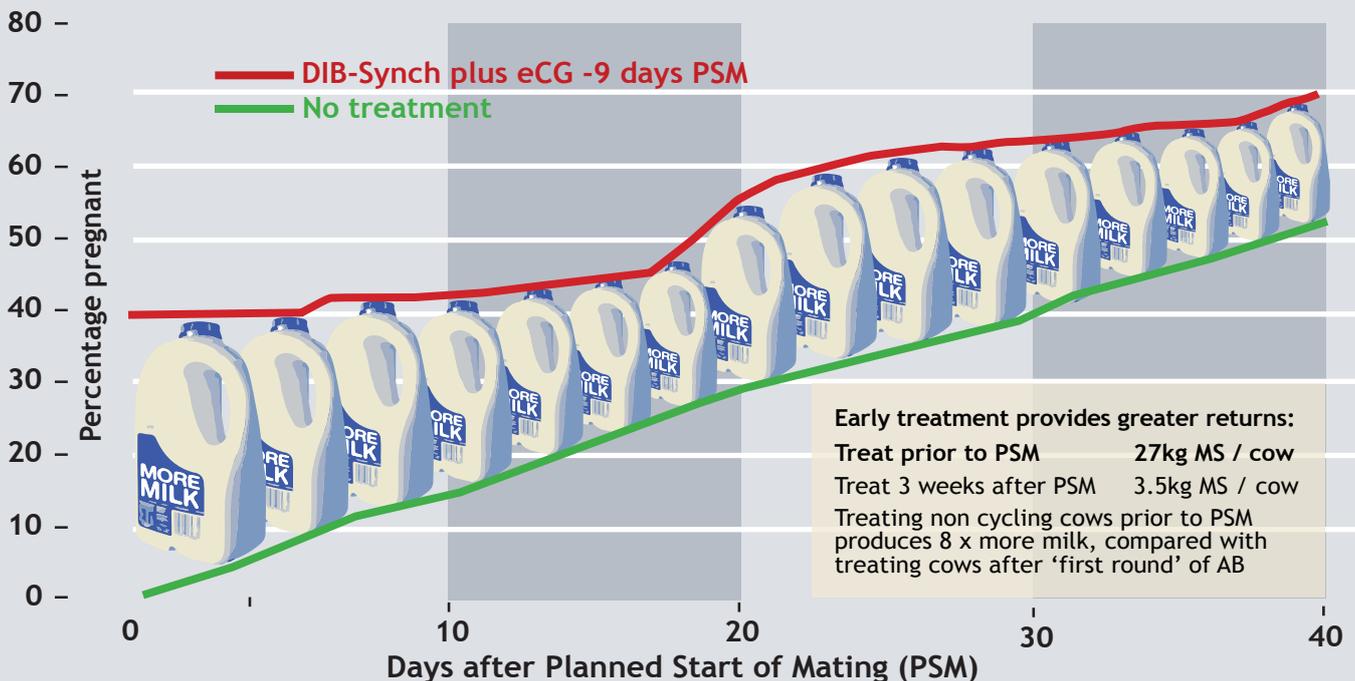
The benefits of 'Plus' eCG programs

- Increased conception rates and 6 week in-calf rates (by 6-7% compared to programs without eCG)
- Higher return on investment (by over 15% compared to programs without eCG)
- Higher proportion of treated cows are seen in 'standing heat'



Extra milk production following non-cycling cow treatment

Early intervention for non-cycling cows compared with no treatment



Trials investigating alternative ways to manage non-cyclers

Splitting non-cyclers from main herd

- Non-cycling cows split from the herd one week prior to PSM and for first round of mating had significantly worse reproductive outcomes than non-cyclers left in the herd
 - Disruption of social structure
 - Less involvement in sexually active groups (SAGs)

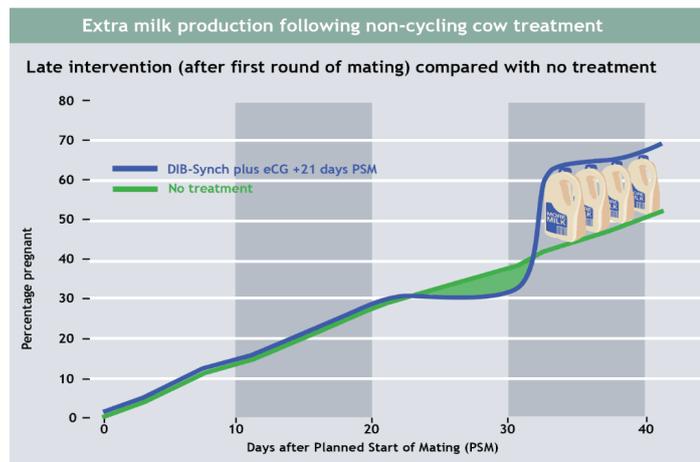
Once a day milking

- Non-cycling cows milked once day from one week prior to PSM and for the first round of mating (total 4 weeks) had slightly improved reproductive outcomes compared with non-cyclers that remained on twice a day milking
 - Loss in milk production significantly larger cost than benefit seen in reproduction

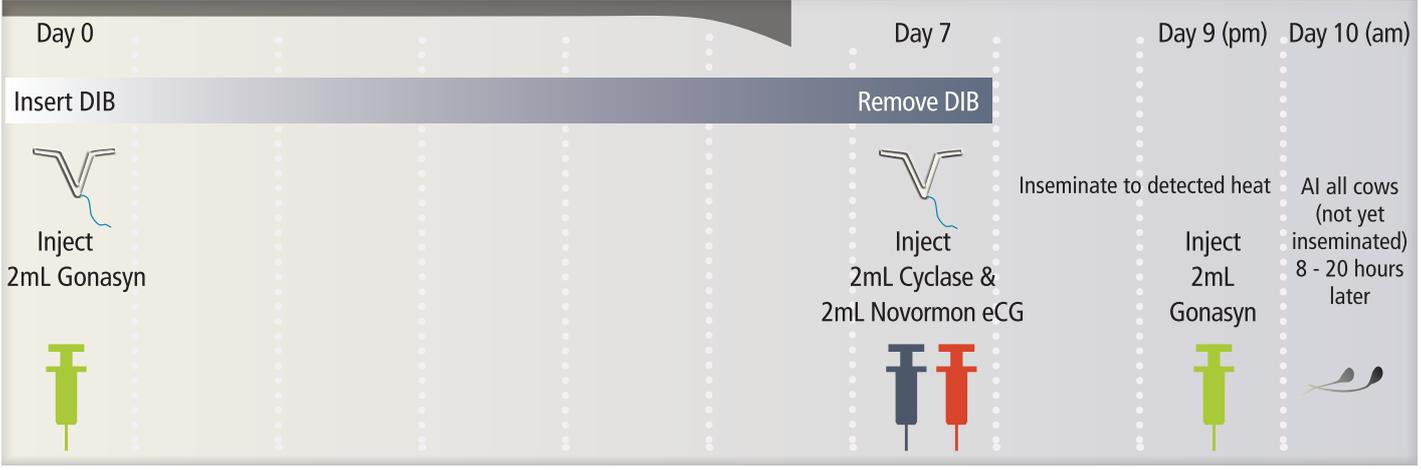
Both trials showed that early intervention with reproductive program had the biggest benefit and financial return for the farm

Treating non-cyclers too late

Treating non-cycling cows during the mating period provides an inferior financial return as the milk produced is significantly less and, after a round of mating may not even cover the treatment costs.



DIB-Synch Plus for non-cycling cows



References
 McDougall et al 2010 NZVJ Clark et al 1999 NZSAP
 Shephard, R. 2013 NZVJ Rhodes et al 1998 NZSAP