

## Use of eCG in non-cycling cow treatment programs

Novormon eCG is an injectable vet medicine that can be added to a standard non-cycling cow treatment program to improve pregnancy rates.

Equine chorionic gonadotropin (eCG) acts on developing follicles in the ovary to increase development, resulting in a slightly larger egg at ovulation. There is also an improvement in the function of the corpus luteum (CL) that forms on the ovary to maintain the pregnancy.

Additionally, cows that do not hold to the insemination at the end of a non-cycling treatment program are more likely to return to heat in the next 24 days, when they have had eCG as part of the treatment program, rather than becoming 'phantom cows' that don't show oestrus again yet are not pregnant.

'Plus eCG' programs have been extensively trialed and validated on numerous New Zealand commercial dairy farms in recent years. In a large study undertaken by veterinary medicine supplier AgriHealth in spring 2010, over 2,000 non-cycling cows from 15 herds across the country participated. Seven veterinary practices from different regions in NZ conducted the clinical work, to compare the effect of adding eCG to standard non-cycling cow treatments.

Results of this vet journal published study provides confidence in recommending the addition of eCG in our non-cycling cow programs. Adding eCG to a standard progesterone treatment program improved the 4 week in-calf rate of cows by 7% compared to the other treatment programs in the study. Other published studies have showed a similar improvement in early pregnancy rates.

Treatment cost of the overall 'Plus eCG' program is far outweighed by the additional milk income, as summarised in the table below.:

	Additional income from DIB-Synch Plus	Treatment costs for DIB-Synch Plus eCG
Extra days in milk	18 days	
milk solids per day	1.5 kg	
\$ milk solids	\$6.50	
<b>Additional income</b>	<b>\$176</b>	
Costs		\$48
<b>Return on investment</b>	<b>\$128</b>	

In summary, due to large scale trials and validation work in New Zealand, we are confident adding eCG to non-cycling cow programs achieves higher pregnancy rates for non-cyclers during the AB mating period. As a result these treated cows calve over two weeks earlier compared to untreated non cyclers; producing another 325 litres of milk per cow treated.

*Novormon eCG is a Restricted Veterinary Medicine, registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997, No. A10641.*

*Return on Investment calculations based on published NZ non cycling dairy cow trialwork, and compares DIB-Synch Plus program administered prior to the planned start of mating to no treatment*