Non cyclers – what should farmers do?

"The easiest and most direct option to [get cows cycling] is a hormonal treatment based on the use of progesterone".

DairyNZ reproductive specialist Chris Burke, Dairy Exporter, September 2011

DIB-Synch - the advanced non cycling cow program

Use of a progesterone insert (such as DIB-V) within a non cycler treatment program is the most reliable and proven way to get cows cycling.

What is the payback?

Treating non-cycling cows at the planned start of mating provides a significant economic return to farmers[3];

- More days in milk
- More compact calving spread
- More AB calves

The following table summarises the return on investment from treating non cycling cows at the start of mating:

	DIB-Synch	
Additional days in milk	16	
Kg MS / day	1.5	
$ / kg MS	$7.00	
Additional Income		**$168.00**
Treatment & vet cost	$40.00	
Costs		**$40.00**
PROFIT		**$128.00**

This is a partial budget analysis that excludes:

1) Additional income from extra AB calves
2) Feed required for the extra 16 x 1.5 kg MS produced
3) Value of the reduced number of non-cycling cows the following season

Advanced

Non cycling cow treatment

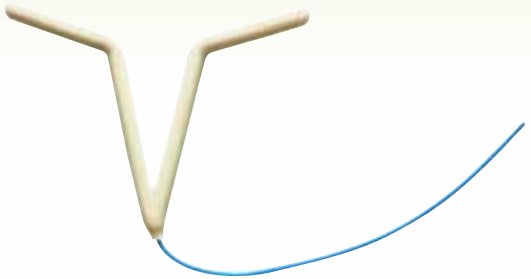
AgriHealth

Proven on New Zealand commercial farms

- The DIB-Synch program was proven effective in getting non-cycling cows in calf in a large Study[1] conducted in Spring 2010. This commercial trial was undertaken in 2,000 cows from 15 dairy herds right across New Zealand.
- Treating non-cycling cows early (at planned start of mating) leads to a more compact calving spread[2]
- Non cycling cows treated at planned start of mating got in calf earlier, resulting in 16 more days in milk compared with non treated herdmates.[3]

The advantages of using the DIB-V are:

- Superior V-shape design and more pliable silicon elastomer form
- Improved cow comfort reported by New Zealand dairy farmers[4]
- Significantly less* pus at removal[5]
- Excellent retention rates[6]



"When our non cyclers were treated with DIB-Vs last Spring, the cows were definitely less irritated. Also they defecated less at milking time. It was quite noticeable as we used some CIDRs at the same time.

We will be using DIB-Vs again this season, both in the main herd and the yearling heifers"

John Charlton, 320 cow herd, Cambridge

1. Shephard, R. Study AG-SN-010, DIB-Synch NZ comparative non cycling cow treatment trial 2010. Data on file. Publication pending.
2. McDougall, S., Compton C. Reproductive Performance of anoestrus dairy cows. Journal of Dairy Science Vol 88, 2005,Page 2388
3. McDougall, S. Effects of treatment of anoestrus dairy cows with gonadotropin releasing hormone, prostaglandin, and progesterone. Journal of Dairy Science Vol 95, No 5, 2010, Page 1944-59
4. NZ dairy farmer market feedback Spring 2010. Data on file.
5. McDougall, S. Prevalance of vaginitis and degree of purulent material on two intravaginal progesterone releasing devices. *Compared to CIDR.
6. Cutaia, L. Use of DIB inserts in maiden heifers and mixed aged cows. IRAC 2003