

A new, improved non-cycling cow tool is now available

DIB-V is a new intravaginal insert suitable for use in non-cycling cow programmes that has been extensively trialled on New Zealand commercial dairy farms. Over 2,000 non-cycling cows from 15 herds across the country were enrolled in the large scale study undertaken in Spring 2010 by veterinary medicine supplier AgriHealth. Seven veterinary practices from different regions in NZ conducted the clinical work, making all results independent and relevant to what happens “in the real world” on local farms.

The results of this extensive Study enable real confidence in recommending the DIB-V progesterone insert in our non-cycling cow programmes. The new DIB-V insert performed as well as the CIDR , and showed advantages when it came to cow comfort, and also in the reduced level of pus seen at insert removal.

The DIB-V insert lodges well into the vagina when introduced. Practically, this means there are less cases of the insert being inadvertently removed when the applicator is withdrawn, and also retention rates are excellent. Another overseas study of nearly 8,000 cows also confirmed the DIB-V retention rates are extremely high in cows of all shapes and sizes.

A separate independent clinical study also looked at whether the DIB-V insert caused pus production or irritation of the vaginal wall. There was significantly less pus on the DIB-V insert at removal compared with CIDR. The pus caused by progesterone insert, is often reported as an issue by farmers, and may annoyingly flick up when the insert is removed. In addition, insertion of the DIB-V insert for seven days had no significant impact on the health of the vaginal wall.

Additionally, NZ farmers with herds that used DIB-Synch last season were surveyed about their perceptions of the DIB-V insert. Overwhelmingly farmers reported a preference to the DIB-V insert over traditional progesterone inserts such as CIDR. The farmer feedback was that cows with DIB-V inserts had reduced straining and tail flicking and tended to defecate less during milking. There was a general perception that the DIB-V insert improved cow comfort and that cows exhibited more normal behaviour when grazing and during walking. Of farmers who used the product in 2010 and completed the survey, 80% declared an intention to use DIB-V inserts again for 2011.

In summary, due to large scale trial work having been conducted in New Zealand last year, we are confident the new DIB-V insert will work effectively in the primary role of achieving high pregnancy rates for non cyclers during the AB mating period, and also mean your cows are more comfortable during the seven day treatment period.