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Rhodes Vet Clinic

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Newsletter

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PREGNANCY TESTING CATTLE

WHY? WHEN?

Pregnancy testing allows for more efficient utilisation of available feed, labour and informed management decisions.

When to test?

This depends on how much information you are after. If you are wanting to find out if they are pregnant to AI or to the bull, cows should be between 6-8 weeks pregnant to get the most accurate date of pregnancy. Once they are over 6 months pregnant aging of the foetus becomes far less accurate.

How to test?

Milk sampling for pregnancy by measuring the level of progesterone in the milk has become very popular. This is for a very good reason because of its ease of use. Unfortunately there is a down side. It cannot tell you how far along the cow gestation is. This method also as a fair percentage of false negatives.



Another method of checking pregnancy is with a rectal scanner. This can detect pregnancy less than six weeks. The down side of this method is that it is not reliable if the cow is greater than twelve weeks and useless after 20 weeks. If the cow is deemed empty it is then checked by arm to confirm.

The last method is rectal by arm. The tried and true method. Downside to this method is fatigue to the operator and there is a lot more hassle and mess to get the cows in and out of the shed.

Nothing is 100% accurate as all methods of testing have false positives and false negatives attached to them. Before culling any animal based on any of the above testing please get them rechecked!

We provide:

- Surgery & Medicine for small and large animals
- Herd Health Advice
- Soft Tissue & Orthopaedic Surgery
- Dentistry
- Digital X-ray
- Ultrasound
- In House Blood Testing
- Nutrition
- Prescription Diets
- Microchip Identification

Simpson Office:

Our Simpson Office is open
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10am to 3pm
P: 03 5594 3257

Colac Office:

Our Colac Office is open
Monday to Friday
8am to 6pm
Saturday 9am to 12 noon
www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au

**We are available 24/7
for emergencies.
Our emergency number
is:
5232 2111**

