

Hiprabovis 3

The Ultimate Bull Vaccine

For bulls to achieve their full potential they need to achieve high conception rates during the mating period. Bulls are often required to serve large numbers of cows making it imperative that their semen is of high quality. Any diseases that cause fever in a bull may make him temporarily infertile which may result in lower than acceptable conception rates or an increase in 'late' cows. Higher than normal body temperatures can affect the quality of semen during the fever period. It may take up to three months following an infection for the quality of semen and sperm count to return to normal.

It's well documented the risks of Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) to bull's and their subsequent fertility and the need to ensure that any persistently infected (PI) bulls are removed prior to mating and all other bulls are vaccinated against BVD before entering the herd. But there are other diseases that can be as equally debilitating for the fertility of our bulls.

BVD vaccinated bulls have been shown to be totally absent of any sperm and testing positive for Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) despite appearing clinically healthy and displaying good libido (Asken, 2013). IBR is widespread in New Zealand dairy herd so the chances of bulls coming in contact with the disease while out with the cows is high.

The virus causing IBR is Bovine Herpesvirus 1 (BoHV-1) which is responsible for two other conditions that can impact on fertility. Infectious pustular vulvovaginitis (IPV) and Infectious pustular balanoposthitis (IPB) are genital infections of cows and bulls of which both can affect fertility. IPB may cause severe pain and unwillingness to serve while IPV similarly may cause infertility through a cow's unwillingness to be served.

Fever associated with a Parainfluenza infection may also reduce fertility through a reduced sperm count that be be low through the duration of the mating period.

Thus a vaccination protocol involving Hiprabovis 3 is the surest way to ensure the continued health and well being of bulls over the mating period. It gives confidence that they are working to the maximum of their potential and are getting cows in half regularity throughout mating.

Bulls should be tested BVD negative and vaccinated with a primary dose 8-9 weeks prior to introduction with the herd with a booster dose given at least 3 weeks before introduction with the cows.

References

Asken, B. IBR causing infertility in bulls: A case study. Proceeding of NZVA Conference (2013) p 261-262

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