

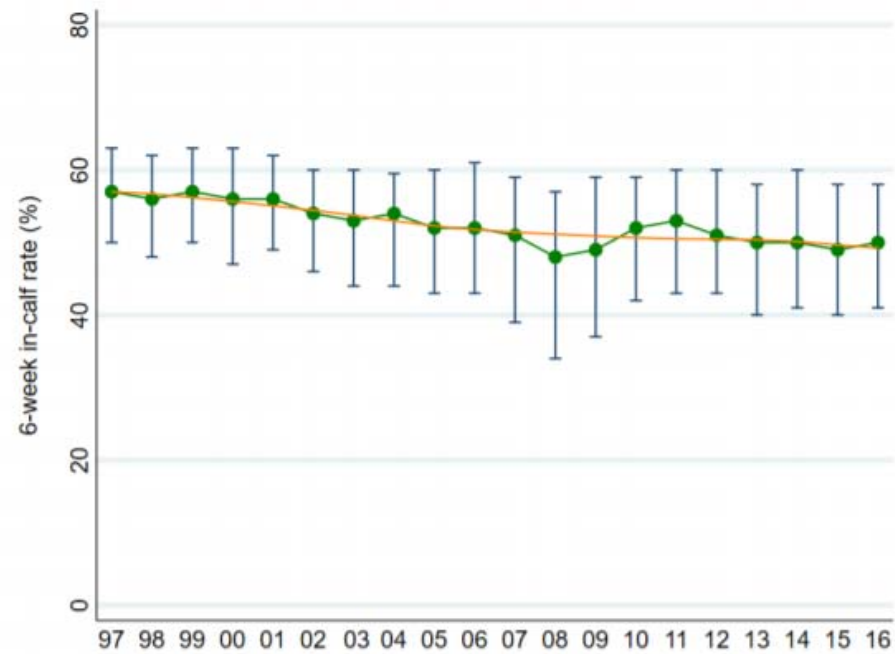
Since the Herd conference series began, fertility has featured prominently in every program.

So, what's changed and what hasn't?

What are some strategies that farmers, service professionals and industry can adopt to make a step change in the fertility of Australian dairy cattle?

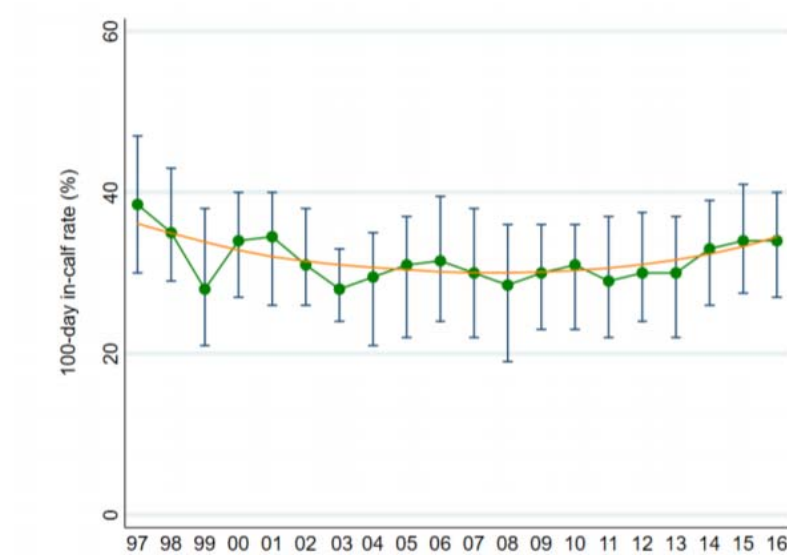
Tim Humphris InCalf Project

NatScan Data



Median 6-week in-calf rates for mating periods in seasonal and split calving herds (pooled) from 1997 to 2016

NatScan Data



Median 100-day in-calf rates for year-round calving herds from 1997 to 2016

The key fertility management areas have not changed

- Calf & heifer management
- Body condition and nutrition
- Heat detection
- AI practices
- Bull management
- Cow health

What's my scorecard? Longroad Dairy

Management Area	Score	Comment
Calf & heifer management	B-	Cryptosporidia in calves, growth rate in 12 month old heifers
Body condition and nutrition	B+	Pasture consumption and harvest drives nutrition
Heat detection	A-	Good, except after a busy day
Sire selection	A+	Excellent
AI practices	A-	A few short cuts taken
Bull management	D	Not enough bull power, bull feeding not great
Cow health	B	Transition cow management hit and miss

The key challenge : Farmers

- What's your scorecard?
- What are you doing to improve your scorecard?
 - Can you improve your transition cow management
 - Can you find more heats
- What is the return on investment?
 - To invest in automated heat detection?
 - To increase heifer calving weight by 30kg?
 - To fertility test you bull team

The key challenge : Service Providers

- What's your clients scorecard?
- What are you doing to assist them improve their scorecard?
 - Are you selling products and services?
 - Or are you using your products and services to assist your clients in identifying key factors limiting reproductive performance?

InCalf initiatives: Repro Right

Repro Right is an intensive 10 month professional development program for dairy reproduction advisers to improve their ability to provide intensive problem-solving and whole herd reproductive management services to dairy farmers.

Courses, workshops & discussion groups

- Incharge dairy reproduction course
- Heat detection discussion module
- Low stress calving discussion module
- Transition cow management workshop
- Heifers on target

Step Change

- Daughter Fertility ABV
- Cross Breeding

Cross Breeding

The scientific use of crossbreeding provides one of the biggest step changes seen in reproductive performance in dairy herds.

Cross Breeding – the benefits

- Increased conception rates
- Increased submission rates
- Increased six week in calf rates
- Decreased not in calf rates

Cross Breeding – how to

- Stick to the plan!!
- Three breeds at least.
- Create an easy system.

Cross Breeding - messages

- Use Good Bulls Guide
- Use high BPI sires for all breeds
- Use high daughter fertility ABV sires for all breeds
- Sit back and harness the benefits of the step change!!

