

CAMO'S TIDING'S

SPRING IS HERE!



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Well it's that time of year again, the days are getting longer, the sun is out, and finally it is starting to warm up! With the increasing day length there is more time for our equestrian activities, and with COVID-19 keeping at bay here in South Australia (at least for now), competitions are starting to get up and running again and things are starting to look positive. It is great to see everyone out and riding their horses and getting back to some sense of normality.

With this warmer weather we also see the start of both the equine breeding season and the spring calving season. The birds and the bee's are out, and yet this breeding season could prove to be an interesting one. With increasing border closures and decreased commercial flights available, sourcing chilled semen for routine breeding could prove to be unreliable. There are many considerations for people to make before breeding this year, least of which will be accessibility of good quality semen in a reliable manner.



Tips For Selecting Your Breeding Sire This Year.

Is frozen semen an option?

This may be more easily accessible and available for accurate / regular breeding. However, care needs to be taken in mare selection, realistic expectations on pregnancy rates and increased costs.

Chilled semen selection.

Being prepared for increased delivery times is crucial, this will affect overall sperm viability making it important to consider if the stallion ships well. Other considerations will be; has there been accurate storage / dilution / preparation of the semen?

Is there routine stallion testing / screening performed at the breeding farm? Is there a more local stallion available? What is the collection and shipping methods for these stallions?

Ultimately it is most important to remember that overall pregnancy rates will be down this year as a direct result of semen shipping availability. Having realistic expectations is crucial for preparedness for the upcoming breeding season, whilst also expecting some more complex shipping issues.

Due diligence and appropriate consideration prior to breeding will be a strong focus for most breeders this year.

IN THIS EDITION...

EQUINE BREEDING

RADIOGRAPHY

PREGNANCY TESTING

The Importance of Pregnancy Testing

Why bother pregnancy testing, what is there to gain?

Information is king!

Information is crucial to any business, and never more so important than when breeding cattle. A key component for the management of a breeding herd is knowing if your cows are in calf and knowing so before it is too late. Too often as a vet I am called in to assess a herd when things are not going well and the calves should already be on the ground. Knowing if your cows are pregnant gives a primary producer a key advantage, so why exactly should we bother?

1. The cows are in calf so yes the bull has done his job, this means that we expect a full crop of calves and the associated income.
2. Any empty cows can be identified and culled or sold as appropriate. This allows for decreased stocking rates, maintaining cash flow, not feeding of non-pregnant cows and maintaining pasture health.
3. Any problems with conception can be identified early and appropriate action can be taken.
4. We can identify ages of calves to allow for appropriate management to be in place at calving time.
5. General herd health check-up. Are the cows in good condition prior to calving? Too good a condition, how can we decrease calving risks? Up to date with vaccinations? Etc.

So obviously there is a lot to consider and there are a number of benefits to being prepared. But when should we preg-test? Well that will depend on our mating schedule, but we would usually recommend that your bulls be in the herd for 6-8wks and pregnancy testing be performed from 2 – 3 months after the bulls are removed. This will give us a range of pregnancies from 2.5/3 months – 5.5 months.

Key Information

- ❑ Removing your bulls controls your calving times, meaning you can regularly check your cows when they are due and avoid any unnecessary dystocia's.
- ❑ Controlling your pregnancy rates and your joining times will breed for fertility in your herd.
- ❑ **Talk To Your Veterinarian!**

Being prepared decreases the risk of calf and cow losses. Maintaining your overall profitability!

OUR NEWEST TOY – DIGITAL X-RAY

Our digital radiography machine is now up and operational, providing and increase array of diagnostic services to our clients. It has already started to be a most useful tool for a variety of cases. Some of our increased services include:

1. **Dental Radiograph's** – an added tool for imaging of possible tooth root abscesses, confirming dental extractions and complementing our oral health exams.
2. **Lameness investigations** – lameness investigations often require full radiography assessment of joints for degenerative changes or catastrophic breaks.
3. **Routine screening** – routine pre purchase examinations etc.



What does the future hold? – let me check my crystal ball

- ❑ Plans are on hold for establishing a base for the CVS, so at this stage we will be remaining a purely mobile clinic. **However, stay tuned!**
- ❑ Our Bull Testing Equipment is here and operational. This will complement our veterinary services for our bovine clients.

Don't forget the bull!

He is just as important for routine screening and ensuring a full crop of calves...