

## Repeat Breeder and Oviduct Patency (Dye Testing)

**Culling as a result of infertility is a large drain on the profitability of any cattle farm. The implantation of a low cost embryo seven days post A.I. can improve conception rates in these problem breeder cows. The procedure is quick and inexpensive, success rates are in the order of 30%.**

Repeat breeder cows are an issue in a lot of herds, and they can often be your more valuable cows! This can mean that these cows are culled prematurely due to failure to conceive. One reason for their infertility may be that the oviducts are blocked, meaning that once the egg is ovulated it doesn't come into contact with sperm, thus making fertilisation impossible. This may be due to a chronic infection and inflammation causing a blockage or severe narrowing of the oviduct.

Rather than cull these cows it is a reasonable option to 'dye test' them. Performing a dye test will diagnose whether there is a blockage in these tubes, and if they are blocked then treatment with antibiotics can be performed at the same time.

One Pedigree Beef herd has successfully used dye testing to diagnose and treat a number of repeat breeder cows which have then gone on to breed successfully. This herd also regularly flushes cows for embryos, and as a routine now will dye test any prospective donors prior to embarking on the embryo programme to ensure the cows are in good order and maximise the chance of a good result from the flush. This farm has seen the benefits of using dye testing to treat repeat breeder cows and prophylactically treating prospective donor cows.

Why not contact our vets and technicians using the details below to talk through this process for you on your farm.



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