Identifying and treating the abnormally cycling cow

Early identification and treatment is the key to minimising the impact

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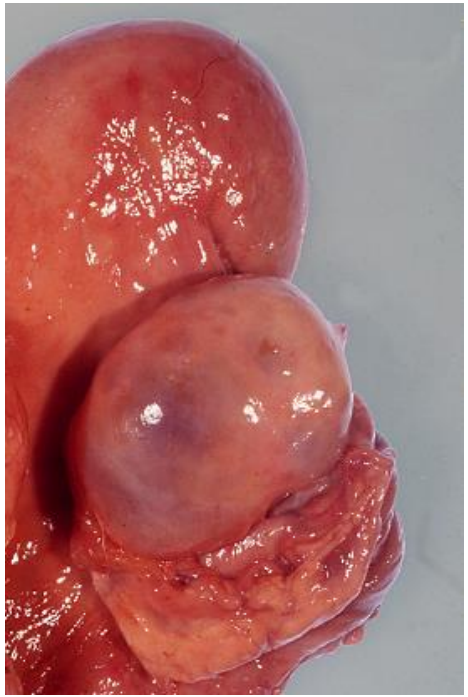
Anoestrus

- Cow doesn't show heat
  - Normal for first 50 days after calving
- Ovary not functioning properly
  - No ovulation
  - No behaviour
- Poor conception rates after treatment
  - But can get cows cycling again
- Prevention is key
  - Energy balance
  - Body Condition Score (BCS) loss



Cystic ovaries

- More common than anoestrus
- Usually no heat behaviour
  - Occasionally ‘nymphomania’
- Treatment – kick start
- PG injections vs. progesterone
- Nutrition key factor

Missed heats

- Most common reason for cow not inseminated
  - 14 * anoestrus; 7* cyst
- Treatment effective
- PG vs. GPG vs. progesterone
- Improve heat detection
- Negative energy balance crucial

The repeat breeder

- Apparently normal cycles
- Multiple inseminations
- Not pregnant
- Is there an abnormality?

The repeat breeder

- Endometritis (whites)
- Delayed ovulation
  - Aged sperm or egg
- Normal : 1 in 8 cows three inseminations

What are the treatment options?

- Prostaglandin (PG)
  - ✓ Simple injection
  - ✓ Needs functioning ovary
  - ✓ Heat detection
  - ✓ Not in previously inseminated animals
    - – Unless definitively not pregnant

Progesterone

- Control and co-ordinate oestrus cycle
  - Particularly in combination with PG
- Higher cost
- Increased reliability
  - Particularly in abnormal animals

Synchronisation programmes

- Targeted at getting ovulation at a fixed time
- Fixed time AI
- Valuable, particularly where heat detection is not optimal
- Often based on GnRH
  - Role in repeat breeders

Summary

- Abnormal cycles are a significant cost on many dairy farms
- Identify cows with problems early
- Missed heats are main problem on most farms
- Early identification - early treatment and reduced impact on fertility

Thank you for participating in this webinar