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Use Metricures in Dairy Cattle

A Metricure is an antibiotic product (500mg Cephapirin/ syringe) that is deposited into the uterus of cows experiencing a uterine infection.

We know that treating cows with a Metricure when they have an infection in the uterus helps their fertility. If cows, with a discharge of pus from the cervix, are treated within 4 weeks of calving then their first-round conception rate is **48%** compared with **22%** in untreated cows.

Which cows to check?

- Cows with retained foetal membranes
- Stillbirth or a calf that dies within 24 hours of birth
- Twins
- Milk fever
- Discharge from vulva seen 7 days or more from calving
- Assisted calving

It is important to be hygienic when checking to see if cows have a discharge from the cervix. If you use a gloved hand, make sure that you use disinfectant, and that the vulva is cleaned properly.

The best way to check to see if a cow has a pus discharge is to use a Metricheck device. This is a thin metal tube that has a rubber cup like an inside out squash ball.

Ideally, you should aim to examine and treat dirty cows within **2 weeks** of calving to get the maximum benefit.

In the large trial at Maffra, they found that when cows were treated with Metricure 6 weeks or more after calving that their fertility was worse than when they were left untreated.

Our thinking is that when cows have been calved this long the cervix is shut tight and all the extra fiddling around passing the pipette does more harm than the good of the antibiotic. These cows may need injectable antibiotics.