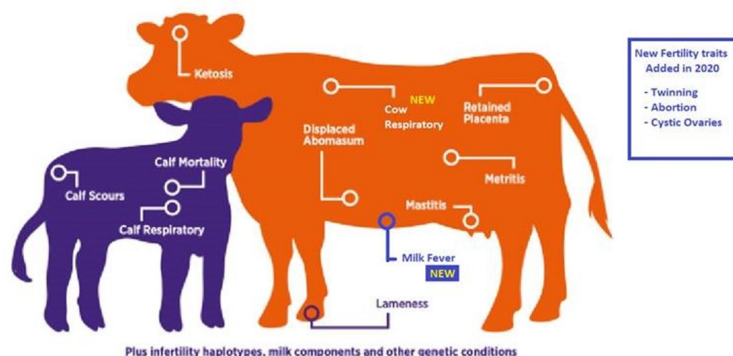


June 2021

## Genomic Sampling, Not just for Pedigrees

I was scanning cows at a farm recently and the conversation came onto a rise in mastitis the farmer had been experiencing. We discussed what was happening and what we would do to investigate the cause of the mastitis and the control measures we would start straight away while waiting for the lab results. At the end of the conversation I said that he could also look at his breeding strategies to help reduce mastitis, SCC and many other conditions in future, the farmer looked quizzically at me so I explained that by genomically testing the heifers and calves and choosing the best, then picking bulls etc to suit the herd his future replacements would be better. His response was "is that not just for pedigree herds?". I said it was and it wasn't! If you are wanting to know where your herd strengths are at the moment and therefore what bulls are best suited to use for AI then you need to know where the cows are genomically. And if you are using sexed semen then you will want to breed replacements from your best animals, which are not just the ones with the most milk. **We can now measure how likely cows are to get mastitis, dirty calf bed, hold their cleanings, ketosis, lameness and fertility parameters just to name the big ones.** It makes sense to only breed replacement heifers from your best animals, its knowing which are the best is the hard part (it is not just the highest yielders), but that's quickly answered with genomic sampling by Clarifide Plus.



- CLARIFIDE Plus incorporates health and wellness traits in addition to the production and fertility traits delivered by standard genomic testing
- Wellness traits offer you the opportunity to better manage disease and increase profitability.
- Cows in the top 25% of the herds for the genetic predictions for each trait were, on average, over twice as likely to **stay healthy**.
- For a more productive, profitable and welfare friendly future choose CLARIFIDE Plus.

### Exclusive to CLARIFIDE Plus

**Dairy Wellness Profit™ (DWP)** – a bespoke selection index based not only on lifetime productivity but also health, giving an overall view as to how profitable a cow could be. CLARIFIDE Plus provides proven predictions on these illnesses:

### Heifer inventory management is the key to your success

Reliably predicting the lifetime capability and wellness of a heifer at a few days of age will give you a massive advantage. You can ensure your replacement heifers fit with your farming strategy giving you the ability to breed and invest in your best.

When ranked for each health trait, cows in the top third for their farm had significantly less disease incidence than cows ranked in the bottom third.

With genomic sampling we can now breed for animals which give more milk AND are healthier. Speak to Treenie, Philip or Craig at Parklands vets for more Info.

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For further information please visit our website: [parklandsvets.com](http://parklandsvets.com)

## Young Calves and High Protein Lush Grass

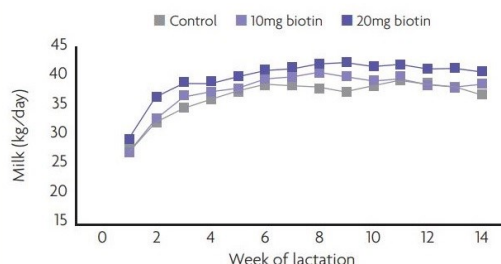
Around Turnout for young calves the grass can be short and lush with a high protein content and very little fibre. This type of grass is what will make older cattle scour but in the young calves with a developing rumen it can be much more severe with fatalities developing. The problem seems to be the lack of fibre in the soft grass and exacerbated by the high protein content. The calves usually remain bright but start to scour after a week or so outside. The scour can persist until some calves lose weight and get dehydrated and die. The problem sometimes arises where we assume it is coccidiosis or worms causing the issue and treat for these. By the time we realise the treatment is not working the syndrome has got much worse. Treatment involves getting the calves more roughage in the diet. This can be achieved by offering straw in the field, however the calves may not eat enough of this to save themselves. Moving them onto coarser grass should help a lot or sometimes bringing them back in to their original diet is the best answer. If you are seeing your calves scouring soon after turnout consult a Parklands vet.

## Subsidised blood sampling for EAE Abortion in Ewes

Parklands vets have accessed an industry subsidised farm blood testing for *Chlamydophila abortus* (EAE Enzo.). Aborted ewes can be tested for EAE, **ideally from three weeks to three months after lambing**. An investigation is warranted if two per cent or more of a total flock have aborted or if two or more have aborted over two to three days, irrelevant of the size of the flock. Up to 6 ewes can be sampled from flocks that do **not vaccinate** against EAE already. These samples may be useful in flocks where an investigation during the outbreak was not possible, or to confirm the diagnosis in aborted ewes. EAE is an insidious cause of abortion in sheep, it can trickle along in flocks causing abortion or barren ewes at levels higher than normal, sometimes there can be explosive outbreaks. If you had some abortions why not contact Parklands to get this investigated?

## Lame Cows, Soft Feet? Try our New Biotin Bolus

**Biotin** is an Amino Acid essential for production of hoof, horn and hair. Studies have shown that biotin supplementation can improve hoof quality and therefore reduce lameness caused by sole ulcer, white line disease and sand cracks. On top of this **Biotin** also helps synthesis of glucose, proteins and fats by the cow therefore it can increase milk yield by up to 2kg per day! Why not try out the **Agri cure Biotin** bolus in any cows being treated or have been treated for lameness?



## Blackleg and Clostridial Disease

There have been several cases of blackleg disease and other clostridial diseases in sheep and cattle recently, please ensure all cattle and sheep have the full course of 2 injections separated by 4-6 weeks and then their single annual booster. If you need any advice speak to Parklands vets.

## Flies.

Remember to treat for flies and strike early to prevent build-up of this problem on farm.