

Shortening the Dry Period

Recent work has shown that there are the following advantages to shortening the dry period in the modern dairy cow.



- **Production benefits** - on average an extra 400 litres of milk per lactation from extended lactations, and increased milk solids further boosting productivity.
- **Management benefits** - fewer group changes, reducing stress on cows and simplifying dry cow management.
- **Health benefits** - all cows reduce their dry matter intake just before calving but this happens to a lesser extent with shorter dry periods. The result of this is that cows spend less time in negative energy balance with a reduction in metabolic disorders.
- **Fertility benefits** - better nutritional status improves fertility performance as the table below shows.

Dry period (Days)	55	34
Days to first service	72	62
1 st Service CR	32%	30%.
% cows pregnant day 150	44%	52%

Cephaguard dry cow tube

Cephaguard dry cow tube contains a broad spectrum antibiotic which has a high cure rate of sub-clinical udder infections. Recent changes to its milk withdrawal means that it is suitable for cows with a shorter dry period. The milk withdrawal is now one day after calving when the dry period is more than 35 days. Thirty six days after treatment when the dry period is thirty five days or less.

Tips on the use of Orbeseal

The recent farmers meeting we had on the teat sealant Orbeseal highlighted some useful practical tips on its use.

- Orbeseal should be stored at room temperature. If Orbeseal becomes difficult to administer in cold weather then it can be warmed by immersing the Orbeseal bucket in warm water. **Never immerse individual tubes in water.**
- If dual tubing thoroughly clean the teat end again with spirit after insertion of the antibiotic tube and before tubing with Orbeseal.

Insert the nozzle into the teat canal, grasp the base of the teat near the udder attachment with two fingers pressed firmly together and slowly inject all contents.

- Use one complete syringe per quarter.
- Do not massage.
- Teat dip after inserting Orbeseal.

If you have any queries about any of the points in this newsletter and the real benefits to be gained from dual tubing please speak to one of the vets.

