

CALVING INDUCTION

Early pregnancy

In the first third of pregnancy (first trimester), cattle may be aborted using a single dose of prostaglandin given intramuscularly. This dose should not be administered within 10 days of bull removal.

- Eg. 1) Lutalyse® - 5 mls
2) Estrumate® - 2 mls

WARNING – Prostaglandins are dangerous drugs. They may cause abortion in pregnant women, and may induce asthma attacks in certain people. Handle with care and wash hands after use, as skin absorption is possible.

LATER PREGNANCY

After the first trimester, a combination of prostaglandin and corticosteroid are needed, given as two separate but simultaneous intramuscular injections. Calvings induced by this method will typically occur 24 to 48 hours after injection, most at about 36 hours. In sick or debilitated cows, delay or even failure to induce may occur.

WARNING – Inductions greater than 4 weeks prior to the due calving date are unlikely to produce viable calves. Cattle will not produce adequate colostrum if induced more than a few weeks early.

WARNING – Induced calvings are more likely to result in retained afterbirth. Be on the lookout for this.

WARNING – At approximately 48 hours after injection any induced cows that have not calved Must be yarded and physically examined. Induced calvings sometimes do not exhibit the degree of vaginal dilation and vulva laxity seen in normal calvings, and are easier to miss.

Eg. Prostaglandins – as above

Corticosteroids

- 1) Dexamethasone 5mg/ml – 5 mls - Dexapent®, Dexone 5® etc.
- 2) Dexamethasone trimethylacetate – 5 mls - Opticortenol®, Trimdexil®.
- 3) Dexafort® - 10 mls