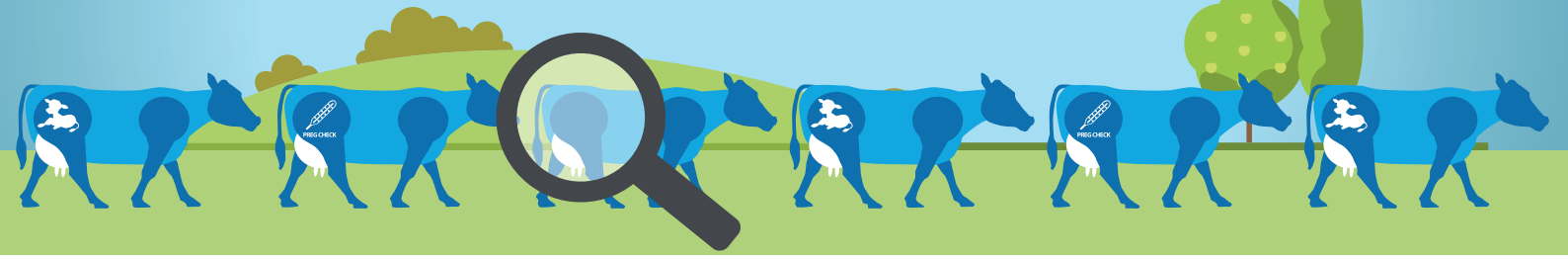


Cattle Information Service

CIS PregCheck Service

Cattle Information Service

Milk pregnancy test to optimise profitability by identifying non pregnant cows easily and effectively

The CIS PregCheck service, using the Alertys milk pregnancy test from IDEXX, is a **trusted and proven** tool for the accurate screening of pregnancy in cattle, sheep, goats and water buffalo. Unlike any other pregnancy test, and with **high levels of accuracy**, the CIS PregCheck service enables laboratories, veterinarians and producers to optimise operational and reproductive efficiency **using milk samples**.The test detects highly specific markers of pregnancy: **pregnancy-associated glycoproteins (PAGs)**. Unlike progesterone levels that fluctuate naturally during a cycle, PAGs are only produced in the presence of an embryo or foetus.

This non-invasive test is **easily incorporated into routine milk analysis** offered by your own lab, no need to add extra steps to the workflow; samples are sent to the lab and results are received automatically. **Ad-hoc testing** is also available.

Non pregnant cow detection throughout gestation

The PregCheck service makes it easy to minimise the days open at any time through gestation, and as soon as 28 days after breeding.

Less handling, less stress for the cows

Milk testing means less handling for the farmer – and less stress for the animals. The test is easily incorporated into routine milk analysis.

Improve reproductive performance

Early identification of non pregnant cows allows for early rebreeding, which assists in improving reproductive performance.

Optimise profitability

Research shows that the average cost per non pregnant cow is £4.50 a day. Losses for one non pregnant cow 20 days longer than expected, could be as high as £90 on a single cow.

Working Together

The real value of the test has been found to be the **post PD test**. Studies have shown that 19% of embryo loss occurs between 28-72 days gestation. Therefore, if a post PD test is done on your milk sample this will help with the re-breeding of non pregnant cows.

The post PD confirmation also assists veterinarians, making their **time on your farm more efficient**.

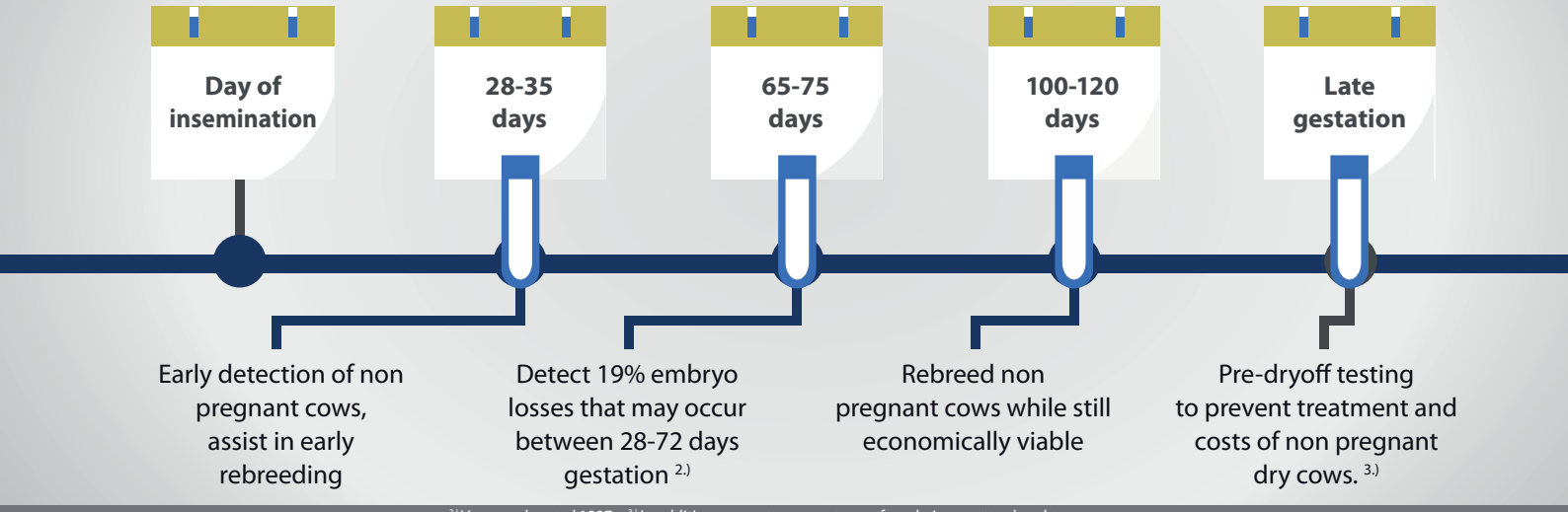
Reproductive performance improves when farmers, veterinarians and breeding companies **work together** to identify non pregnant cows throughout gestation and **take appropriate action**.

Why Testing Throughout Gestation?

During the normal gestation process of a cow, approximately 10-25% of pregnancies will be lost between conception and full-term due to unknown causes. Pregnancy testing at specific times throughout gestation helps improve reproductive efficiency by finding cows who have experienced pregnancy loss.

How to order? This service can be added into your routine milk recording. For further information contact us on 01923 695319 or email info@thecis.co.uk.

BENEFITS DETECTING THROUGHOUT GESTATION



2.) Vasconcelos et al 1997. 3.) In addition, prevent pregnant cows from being sent to slaughter

Additional PregCheck Information

1. Can the quality of the milk sample affect the test results?

Poor quality samples may compromise the accuracy of test results. Bronopol or a similar preservative may be used to maintain sample quality. Prior to testing, milk samples should be checked to ensure that they are not soured or separated and are free from contamination. Care should be taken to minimise the likelihood of milk carry-over from cow to cow during sample collection, particularly when using samples collected for routine herd recording.

2. Does the CIS PregCheck service, still detect PAGs after early embryonic death or after abortion?

Yes, **PAGs will circulate in milk for a certain period of time after embryonic loss or abortion.** For early embryonic loss, we estimate PAGs will disappear within 6-10 days. In case of late term abortion PAGs may be present for a longer period of time (40-60 days). It should be noted that it can take up to 60 days for PAGs to drop below the test threshold post-calving.

3. My vet visits once a week to pregnancy check cows. Using milk samples, I'll only get the results once a month…

Early embryonic loss can occur in 10-20% of previously confirmed pregnancies. **You can use the milk test to confirm pregnancy, to detect early embryonic losses and to prevent dry-off of non pregnant cows or slaughter of pregnant cows.** There is no extra hassle and in many instances your milk laboratory can automate this testing for you. So, you are alerted if a cow needs attention and you can have the vet out to check. Many labs also offer milk pregnancy testing anytime and have a ad-hoc sample kit available for you to collect your own samples.

4. Can carry-over in the parlour impact the test result?

There is a technical risk of carry-over contamination for the CIS PregCheck service, as there is for other disease testing. Carry-over of <1% does not present a significant risk for false positive or re-check results. Up to 10% carry-over may increase the number of re-check results but gives a low risk of false positives. Carry-over of 10% or more could significantly increase the number of re-check and false positive results. In order to **reduce the risk of incorrect results, special attention must be given to:**

- Cow Identification: Verify that cow identification systems have been checked for suitability prior to testing.
- Sample Labelling: Follow the procedures outlined by your lab to ensure correct labelling of samples.
- Minimise Carry-over: Care should be taken to minimise the likelihood of milk carry-over from cow to cow during sample collection, particularly when using samples collected for routine herd recording.

For more information on best practice in sample collection, please review the CIS Sample Collection guidelines. Collect samples using a certified milk meter and ensure that milk sample collection equipment and milking equipment are optimised to reduce carry-over. Samples can be collected direct from the teat into a sample vial if required.

5. Re-check or doubtful results - what do they mean?

The CIS PregCheck service, has a re-check zone that is defined as S-N value greater than or equal to 0.100 and less than 0.250. The result is reported as "re-check". The re-check zone highlights cows with increasing or decreasing PAG levels. Increasing PAG levels could be seen early in pregnancy and decreasing PAG levels may be seen after embryonic or fetal loss. If you get a "re-check" result, either test a new sample 7 days later, or ask your vet to review the status of the cow.

IDEXX

Interested? For further information you can visit our website www.thecis.co.uk or contact us directly on 01923 695319, email info@thecis.co.uk.