



Australian Lowline Cattle Association Inc.
Website: www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

E-mail: office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

ALCA Executive Officer

We would like to welcome our new Executive Officer, Jessica Zirkler to the ALCA family and hope she enjoys her time with us.

Jessica has written the following as an introduction to herself;

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Jessica Zirkler and I have just started the position as Executive Officer for the Australian Lowline Cattle Association. I am a local girl, born and bred in Armidale, NSW. Married with three small children, we run cattle and sheep on our property.

I am excited to join the ALCA team and hope the transition will be a smooth one as I familiarise myself with the position. I look forward to meeting many of you in the future.

If I can be of assistance with any enquiries, please do not hesitate to get in touch by phone or email me at office@lowlinecattleassoc.com.au

My office hours are **Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday** between the hours of **8:30am-4:00pm**.

Jessica Zirkler
ALCA Executive Officer



Inside This Issue

ALCA Executive Officer	1
Newsletter Articles	1
NSW Promotion Group – Member Gathering	2
Old Genetics Reborn!	2
It's Time for Drenching	3
The Cattle Parasite Atlas from MLA	4
How to Photograph your cattle	5/6
Welcome to New Members	7
New Merchandise	7
NZ North Island – Summer Field Day	7/8/9
2023 Royal Canberra Show	9
Blackleg in Cattle – the importance of Vaccinations	10/11
Getting your Herd in calf	12/13
ALCA Juniors	13

Newsletter Articles

The production of this newsletter is for the benefit of you, as members of our Association.

It is for sharing information, educational topics for the newbies or the not-so-new members, guidance with Association procedures and showing members what others are doing with their cattle.

If you would like to share something you have achieved, photos of interest or stories about your life with Lowlines, please send them to me.

Show results and photos need to be sent in, otherwise there won't be any results shared.

If you would like to know about something – just ask!

The newsletter is a great way to network with other members so make the most of the opportunity.

Send to Julie Knight wanamara@westnet.com.au



NSW Promotion Group - Member Gathering

Are you interested in learning more about Australian Lowline cattle and meet other breeders?

Don't miss this opportunity - Come & join us on 26th March at Berrima.

For catering purposes, contact Danielle Wood if you would like to attend - danielleirvin@gmail.com

Guest speaker is from PregTest Australia who will be discussing pregnancy testing, heat synchronisation and much more.

NSW Lowline Gathering

An open invitation

The NSW Promotion Group would like to invite you attend a social gathering to share stories, experience and chat over a BBQ lunch all things Lowline.

It's your opportunity to meet other passionate Lowline owners and a chance to ask any question or for any help in looking after your cattle and your property.

All welcome, particularly those that are considering owning Lowlines in the future.

When: 26th March 2023, 11am start

Where: 340 Greenhills Road, Berrima 2577

RSVP (for catering): Danielle Wood

M: 0447 198 86 or E: danielleirvin@gmail.com



Old Genetics reborn!

Last year, Christine Hine, McIntosh Creek Lowlines, purchased some Heritage embryos from the Association. These were embryos flushed and registered in 1998 (25 years ago) and were donated to ALCA once the owners were no longer involved with the breed.

Two embryos were implanted in recipients which resulted in one chunky bull calf being born this month.

It will be very exciting to have these old genetics back in the herd book.



Lowline Animal Details	
1574.1574.3 (A1)	
<small>Dist Di</small>	
<small>ALCA Website Animal Details Member Enquiry Online Transactions</small>	
Identifier/Tattoo:	1574.3
Birth Date:	21/06/1998
Culling Year:	1998
Status:	Final
Registration Status:	Embryo
Sex:	BULLYR BUNDEL
Breed:	BUNGAREE GEORGE (ET)
Breeder:	ELIZABETH MITCHELL - NIELSEN
Current Owner:	GREGORY & CHRISTINE HINE
Transfer History:	None
Progeny:	None

-----	FRANGIE K208 TRAK208
-----	FRANGIE M214 TRAK214
-----	FRANGIE N204 TRAK204
-----	Sex: BULLYR BUNDEL K1C P202
-----	FRANGIE F202 TRAK202
-----	FRANGIE J203 TRAK203
-----	FRANGIE G213 TRAK213
-----	FRANGIE G214 TRAK214
Animal:	1574.1574.3 (A1) 1574.3
-----	FRANGIE K162 TRAK162
-----	SPENSEY TRAK162 34/08/02
-----	HELEN L205 K205 (ET) K205
-----	Sex: BUNGAREE GEORGE (ET) NIELSEN
-----	FRANGIE J202 TRAK202
-----	FRANGIE J203 TRAK203
-----	FRANGIE G214 TRAK214



It's Time for Drenching

Why drench cattle?

We all know the dangers of internal and external parasites affecting cattle. Every region in Australia has a mixture of parasites that can impact the health and well-being of cattle and mixed infections are not uncommon.

Poor parasite control leads to lower levels of immunity within the herd, which in turn will leave them more susceptible to a wider range of diseases. Lack of proper protection for your cattle's health can lead to wide-ranging impacts across the herd, such as weight loss, deterioration in hide conditions, lower milk productivity, reduced fertility and symptoms from diarrhoea to weight loss and lethargy.

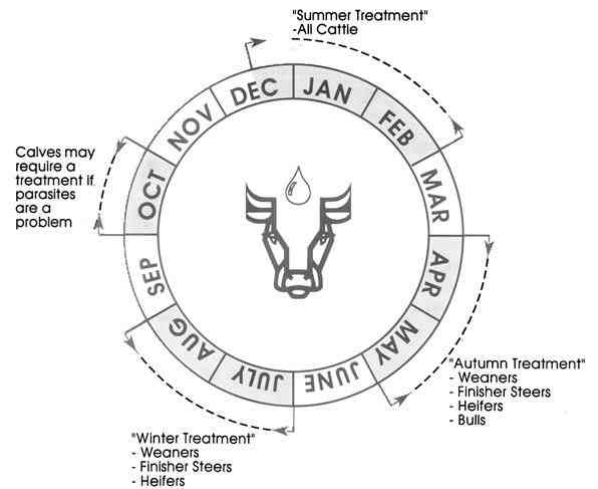
This wide range of symptoms is why cattle drenching is so important to control parasites and maintain that all-important animal health, ensuring the productivity and economic well-being that your farm requires.

What are the different types of cattle drench?

There are three forms of cattle drench, each with its qualities and drawbacks, and the right drench for you depends on your specific situation.

- [Pour-on Cattle Drench](#) – This is applied to the backline of cattle and is the most common way to treat cattle for parasites. The speed and ease of application mean that it is possible to treat large numbers of cattle at speed.
- [Oral Cattle Drench](#) – This form of treatment involves the administration of a pre-calibrated amount of drench into the mouth and throat of the beast.
- [Injectable Cattle Drench](#) – These drenches are administered using an injection to the neck or shoulder area.

Further information - [The Complete Guide to Cattle Drenching](#) | [Specialist Sales](#)



Ivmec Parasite Control Program
– Southern Australia



The Cattle Parasite Atlas produced by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA)

A regional guide to parasite control in Australia

The 'atlas' of parasite control in cattle has been developed as a rapid reference for advisors and producers on the best practice for parasite control for all the major livestock regions in Australia.

The atlas is divided into two sections. The first section describes the program of treatments and interventions for each climatic and geographical region. The regional guides highlight the main production systems, the most important parasites, management procedures that may be used to assist in their control and, where the information is known, the cost-effectiveness of those programs.

The recommendations for each region are generic and therefore need to be customised to the needs of individual producers and delivered by those with knowledge in the field.

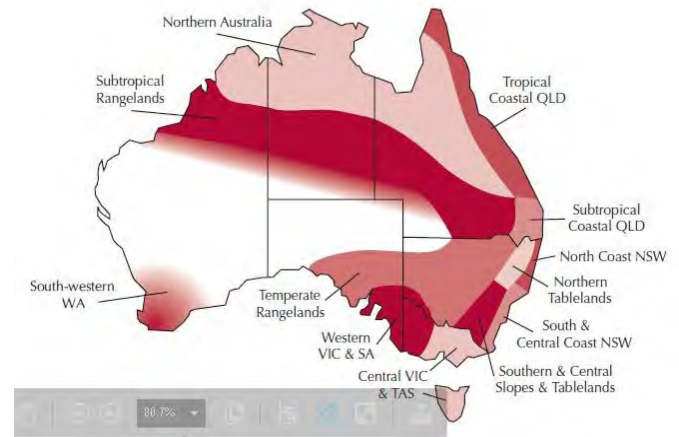
The second section of the atlas examines in more detail the most important parasites, basic principles of parasite control and the range of treatments available.

The atlas is a compilation of available information and represents the end result of 30 years of investigation, research and application by veterinarians, advisors and producers.

The publication has relied on the effort and input from a number of sources, particularly from Dr David Buckley who has collated the information and provided unique approaches to presentation and delivery.

Further acknowledgement should be given to Queensland Department of Primary Industries, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Department of Primary Industries, Victoria, South Australian Research and Development Institute, Western Australian Department of Agriculture, Rural Lands Boards in NSW

and a number of manufacturers of antiparasitic products. Dr Malcolm Smeal has provided expert technical advice and review.



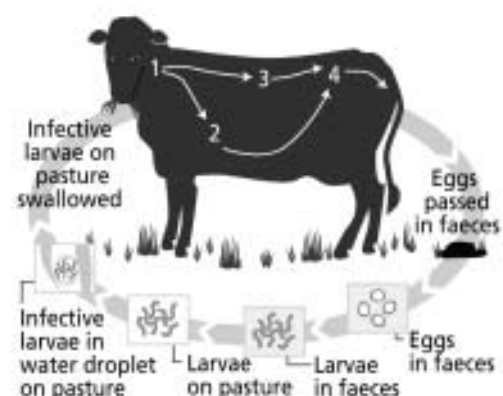
It is really important to have a regular drench program for your cattle for parasite control.

This 'atlas' is extremely informative with separate sections for each region & can be downloaded from the Meat & Livestock website

[Cattle parasite atlas | Meat & Livestock Australia \(mla.com.au\)](https://www.meatandlivestock.com.au/cattle-parasite-atlas)

Or the ALCA website =>

<https://www.lowlinecattleassoc.com.au/membership/herd-health>



1 = Larvae in wall of abdomen. 2 = Development of larvae in late spring and summer is arrested for several months. 3 = Larvae develop directly in 3-4 weeks. 4 = Adult worms in abdomen.

How to photograph your cattle

A picture is worth a thousand words... but bad pictures of your cattle can cost you plenty! Many potential customers cannot visit your farm to view your cattle in person, but when they see your cattle in your photo album, a sale catalogue, or in an advertisement in your breed publication or on the Internet, you want their first impression to be a good one.

A medium priced digital camera is perfect for livestock pictures. Some of the latest phone cameras take great photos too. Make sure it has a zoom lens so you can get a close-up without having to get too close and a built-in flash to help with the shadows. You can take several extra shots of the same animal and then just delete the not so good pictures. The auto-focus and auto-exposure controls make the camera easy to use. With the photo editing software usually included with the camera you can crop and adjust the brightness and contrast to improve your picture even more. You can email the photo to the person doing your ad or web site and they have it the same day it was taken.

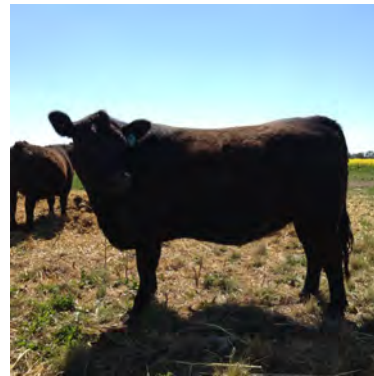
Tips from a professional livestock photographer:

Don't carry a bucket of feed or hay with you to take your pictures. What you'll get for the next hour are cattle with their heads down eating. Instead, just ease into the pasture and wait until the cattle get used to you. Move slowly so you don't spook them.



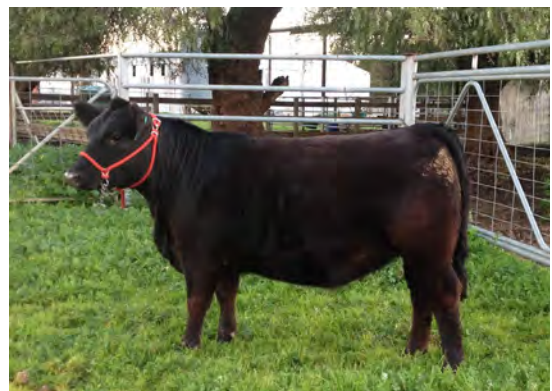
Don't take photos of cows with heads down eating

Take your photos early or late in the day, never in the middle of the day. It just doesn't work. Hazy or cloudy days work better than bright clear days. Keep the sun behind you. Stand where your shadow does not fall into the picture. Use your flash to help eliminate shadows



Avoid bright sunlight

Get another person to help you. The best pictures have the ears forward with the head up looking at a 45° angle. The best way to accomplish this is to have the other person stand in front of the animal and do something to get their attention, wave their arms, whistle or do whatever necessary get the cow to look at him.



Head up & ears forward

Fill as much of the frame as possible with the animal. Have room to back up if necessary. Do not cut off any of the head or feet; get the whole animal in the photo.

How to Photograph your Cattle cont.

Have the cow going uphill. Cattle photograph much better when their front legs are higher than their back legs. Professional photographers even build a mound for the front legs to stand on. Standing on level ground is not good but going downhill is terrible.



Top: Bull is standing with front legs downhill.
Bottom: Bull standing correctly

Cattle generally photograph best if you aim directly at their side, standing neither in front nor behind them. Get them to stand with their back leg that is closest to you back so you can see their udder or testicles. It is best for the camera to be lower than the center of the cow.

Get down on the ground if necessary. Never take a picture with the camera higher than the cow. It makes them look small.



Left: Never take a photo from above the cow. Make sure the head is up, looking alert & legs are positioned properly



A good paddock photo of a mature Lowline bull showing all his best attributes

The background of your picture is important! Make sure you don't get a shot with your ute, hay feeders, junk piles or other cows in the picture. Don't have a fence post or telephone post sticking up out of the back of the animal. A cow standing in a green pasture with some spring flowers blooming makes a great picture. Try not to have them standing next to a fence. The best way to avoid fences is to string a thin single strand of electric fence wire. If the cattle are used to electric fencing it doesn't even need to be hot.

As a rule of thumb try to get a dark colored background for light colored cattle and a lighter colored background for dark cattle. It is much harder to get a good picture of a dark cow.

Try to take your pictures in the spring or early summer after they have shed their winter hair and are in good condition. A good time is after a rain has cleaned them up.

So let's start shooting!

Remember, if you have cattle to sell, make sure you take a great photo to attract attention and a buyer. Post your 'For Sale' ads on the ALCA Saleyard page.

Welcome to New Members

We send a big welcome to our latest new members from Queensland and New South Wales.

Full Membership

Gail Dowie and Ian Buss
Mount Mee, QLD - EVERVIEWS

Katherine Williams
Merriwa, NSW – RISING PHOENIX

Commercial Membership

Peter and Gail Couvaras
Kangaroo Valley, NSW

New Merchandise

Coming soon to the Lowline Shop –
Limited edition Lowline mugs in black or yellow.

Keep your eyes on the Lowline Shop for their availability – \$20 (+GST) each



New Zealand North Island Promotion Group - Summer Field Day - March 2023

A fantastic day was had today at our North Island Lowline Promotion Group AGM, followed by our annual Summer Field day. Everyone enjoyed the Lowline beef brisket, Lowline Porterhouse steaks and Lowline rissoles, along with an array of salads. Thanks to Maurice Butler, the BBQ Master from BBQ Ranch Lowlines, Whakatane, for getting up at 1 am to start cooking the brisket! The feedback was very pleasing.

The weather really turned it on for guest speakers Amy Hoogenboom from Zoetis NZ who emphasised the importance of breeding cattle for your market which included keeping within herd weight and growth performance records, and selecting heifer replacements that have grown to at least 60% of their mature weight by 15 months. Hugh Jellie from ATA Regenerative, which is part of the Savory Institute, educated us on the first steps we can change on the journey into Regenerative Agriculture.

We saw some cracker Lowlines on diverse pasture which was followed by a group dinner at the Good Eastern Taphouse, Rotorua.

Thanks to all our members who did their own little bit to make it a tremendously rewarding and inspiring day.

Special thanks to Ross and Emma Hardy, our international guests who specially travelled all the way from Hanging Rock, Victoria, Australia, and for your valuable contributions.

Matt Wilkinson
Lowland Park



New Zealand North Island Promotion Group - Summer Field Day - March 2023

I have just returned home from the North Island Lowline Promotional Group AGM and field day held at the gorgeous property of Alan Birt and Susan Carr in Rotorua, a round trip of 660 kms in my wonderful safari.

What a lovely group of friendly, funny people, in spite of diverse backgrounds, brought together by our love of our remarkable beef Lowline breed. It was extra special to again have two from Victoria, Australia, Ross and Emma Hardy. We could easily have all talked for another day or two.

My trip started yesterday at 5.30am, and immediately my confidence in my Garmin GPS evaporated as "Karen" urged me to travel down narrow winding roads with unfamiliar names.

The phone had no internet and was no help, so I had to blindly follow instructions, until at last, I found a sign mentioning Rotorua, at which point the stress just fell off me like a blanket. It's probably 20 + years since I last went over there.

Upon arriving, I then spent time putting up the Lowline teardrop banners at two gateways, banging in pegs to prevent them blowing over, not realising that I was virtually the last one to arrive lol.



The AGM was short and sweet with the committee staying the same, then onto a magnificent lunch of BBQed Lowline brisket, steak and meat patties supplied by Lowland Park stud, with salads and buns. Maurice Butler had got up at 1am to start cooking the rubbed brisket, and I hear checked it each half hour during the low and slow cooking process, it was perfection!

That lunch truly proved that Lowline beef is equal to, if not the best beef you can eat.

Since I was lucky enough to stay the night with the hosts, I had the added advantage of enjoying more of the leftovers for breakfast and a packed lunch, that steak cold, was still as tender and tasty as I have ever had when I ate it for lunch. Susan had also packed a chilly bag for me and even cut pieces of orange and a piece of chocolate slice, so I felt extremely loved and cared for when I found all of that! I digress!

After lunch we had our two guest speakers: Amy Hoogenboom from Zoetis (also a veterinarian) and Hugh Jellie from ATA Regenerative as well. He is also a vet.

Amy described our breed as perfect above the knees, with foot faults to be aware of and focus on improving.

When you think of the size of those feet in relation to the weight they carry per square inch, they need to be strong!



NZ PG Summer Field Day cont

We discussed options for processing our smaller but very tasty carcasses, we are stifled by regulations, making it very hard to do pasture to plate beef, and the pressure to achieve a 200 kg carcass in the works is quite frustrating.

Hugh introduced the concept that having bare soil exposed to the sun destroys soil structure and life of the organisms within it. He dug up a square of turf and showed the depth of roots and topsoil in what was poor sandy pumice soil, close to lake Rotorua. I found it interesting that when the plants are eaten off, their root structures also die back in response and then must regrow root depth as well as regrow the leafy portion as well. Proving the theory that grass grows grass as we have always known.

We just had time after that to meet the herd of cows and yearlings and the herd bull, Rancho Radiata Pistol, who was out with sheep and chooks for company.

After the field day concluded, I had no time to change into the dress I had packed as David and I went and retrieved the banners.

We had a lovely dinner at the Good Eastern Taphouse, and that really is the highlight of the weekend, the face-to-face contact with dear friends, most I haven't seen for 2 years, though Facebook and Messenger let us keep in touch most days. Many hugs were exchanged as well as homemade honey, macadamia nuts and my chutney.

Plans are starting for the next AGM, Alan and Susan have offered to host it again, as they are relatively central and have the perfect setting and facilities and are perfect hosts! There was a cheeky suggestion the next one should be in Melbourne, how amazing would that be!

*Fiona Henschman
Kaitake Lowlines*

2023 Canberra Royal Show results

The Canberra Royal Show was held on the weekend of 25th February where 4 exhibitors paraded 14 Australian Lowlines.

Congratulations to all exhibitors.

FEMALES

Females 8-12mths:

1st Cann Valley Tailored Girl

Females 12-16mths:

1st Whitby Farm Veletta

Females 16-20mths:

1st Rotherwood Sapphire Girl

Junior Champion Female – Cann Valley Tailored Girl

Reserve Junior Champion Female - Rotherwood Sapphire Girl

Female 20-24 months:

1st Cann Valley Super Moon

30months and over

1st Cann Valley New Moon

2nd Whitby Farm Roxette

3rd Rotherwood Quack Quack Girl

4th Muscateer Valley Gstar

Senior Champion Female - Cann Valley Super Moon

Reserve Senior Champion Female - Cann Valley New Moon

Grand Champion Female - Cann Valley Super Moon

BULLS

Bulls 8-12mths:

1st Rotherwood Tsunami Red Alert

2nd Whitby Farm Mr Darcy

Bull 12-16mths:

1st Cann Valley Telegraph

2nd Muscateer Valley Storm

Bull 16-20mths:

1st Whitby Farm Harrison

Junior Champion Bull – Cann Valley Telegraph

Reserve Junior Champion Bull – Muscateer Valley Storm

Bulls 24-30mths:

1st Muscateer Valley Sargent

Senior Champion Bull – Muscateer Valley Sargent

Grand Champion Bull – Muscateer Valley Sargent

Supreme Lowline Exhibit – Cann Valley Super Moon

Pair of Bulls – Whitby Farm

Dams Progeny Group – Cann Valley Lunar Eclipse

Breeder's Group –

1st Cann Valley

2nd Muscateer Valley



Blackleg in cattle - The importance of vaccinations

The 'sudden death' of a healthy yearling steer or heifer is something you need to investigate.

Blackleg is a possible cause of sudden death in young animals.

The cause & prevention for Blackleg might be of interest to members. Prevention is better than a cure.

The following article is from the NSW Dept of Agriculture - PRIME FACTS

Blackleg in Cattle

Introduction

Blackleg is a fatal disease of young cattle. It produces an acute local infection, and the resulting blood poisoning leads to rapid death. The name 'blackleg' derives from the fact that the site of infection is often a leg muscle, and that the affected muscle is dark in color.

Occurrence of Blackleg

Although the disease is widely distributed in New South Wales, most losses from blackleg occur in the eastern half of the state. In some areas the disease may appear on several properties, while in other areas only isolated farms are affected. Sometimes, only part of a property is affected.

Susceptible animals

Although blackleg has been found in cattle as young as 2 months old, most losses occur in cattle between 6 months and 2 years of age. Occasionally, losses are seen in adult cattle. Generally, the best conditioned animals are affected, with most losses occurring where there is an abundance of feed.

Blackleg can occur at any time of the year, though more losses are seen during hot, humid weather or following the sudden onset of cold periods.

Cause

Blackleg is produced by spore-forming bacteria. The organisms most commonly responsible are *Clostridium chauvoei* and, less frequently, *C. septicum*.

Spores produced by the clostridia can lie dormant in the soil for years without losing their potency.

Method of infection

Bacterial spores are eaten in contaminated feed or soil. The spores then enter the bloodstream and lodge in various organs and tissues, including muscles. Here they lie dormant until stimulated to multiply, possibly by some slight injury to the animal. The injury reduces blood flow to the area, thereby reducing the supply of oxygen to the tissues. In the absence of oxygen, the spores germinate and multiply. As they grow, the bacteria produce toxins which destroy surrounding tissues. The toxins are absorbed into the animal's bloodstream which makes the animal acutely sick and causes rapid death.

Signs of the disease

Blackleg should be suspected if an animal aged between 6 months and 2 years:

- becomes lame with swelling of a muscle;
- stops grazing;
- appears sick and quickly goes down.

However, these signs are usually of such short duration that they may be missed. More frequently, a thrifty calf or yearling is simply found dead.

Gas is detectable under the skin and this produces a crackling sensation when the skin is rubbed with the hand. The rapid accumulation of gas under the skin and in the body cavity gives the carcass a bloated appearance, with the limbs spread apart and pointing upwards. There may be a frothy, bloodstained discharge from the mouth, nostrils and anus. If the skin over the affected area is removed, excess bubbly bloodstained fluid can be seen, and the muscle immediately below will be dark in color. However, when the affected muscle is inside the carcass, such as when the heart muscle is affected, no external evidence of the disease is found.

Blackleg in Cattle - the importance of vaccinations cont

Because the disease is accompanied by rapid decomposition, the post-mortem changes may be masked by gas formation, especially if examination of the carcass is delayed for more than a few hours.

The only effective means of controlling blackleg is by vaccination. Several makes of multivalent vaccine ('5 in 1' or '7 in 1') are available commercially and care should be taken to follow the manufacturer's instructions.

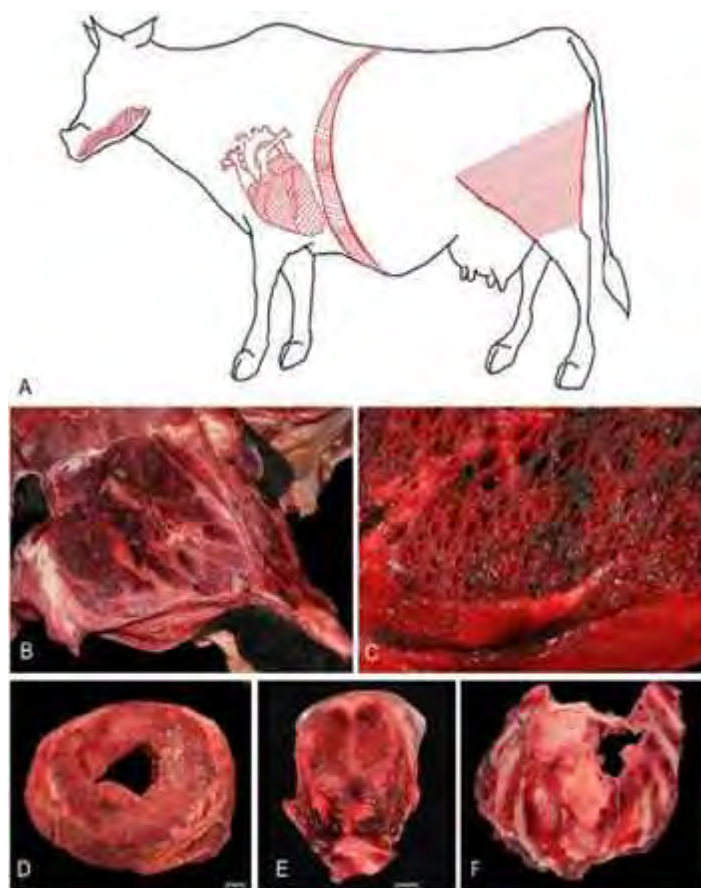
- Calves should receive two doses of blackleg vaccine. Two vaccinations 1 month apart are essential to provide the best protection.
- A booster vaccination 12 months later should provide lifelong immunity to blackleg.
- It is desirable to give the initial two doses of vaccine before young cattle reach their most susceptible age of six months.
- To await the occurrence of blackleg before vaccinating is unwise, as vaccines take 10-14 days before they begin to provide immunity. If store cattle are purchased in blackleg areas, it is wise to vaccinate all newly bought young cattle.

Vaccination techniques

The vaccine should be delivered just under the skin - not into the muscle. Draw up a pinch of skin and insert the needle between the skin and the muscle. The loose skin of the neck is convenient for this.

Abscesses or large swellings at the site of vaccination are usually the result of:

- lack of hygiene;
- injecting into muscle rather than beneath the skin.



Gross lesions of blackleg in cattle. A. Most commonly affected sites in blackleg cases. B. Classic blackleg necrohemorrhagic myositis in the hindlimb. C. Necrohemorrhagic myositis in hindlimb skeletal muscle with prominent emphysema. D. Necrohemorrhagic myocarditis and fibrinous epicarditis. E. Necrohemorrhagic glossitis primarily affecting the ventral portions of the tongue. F. Necrohemorrhagic myositis of the diaphragm with rib impressions.

Treatment

The speed with which blackleg kills usually makes individual treatment useless. In some cases, however, animals treated early with antibiotics may survive, although they often suffer permanent deformity due to partial or complete destruction of muscles.

Carcass disposal

Carcasses of animals known to have died from blackleg should not be opened. Opening the carcass can liberate bacteria which will form spores that will contaminate the ground and subsequently infect other cattle. Also, do not drag carcasses along the ground. If possible, burn or deeply bury the carcasses where they lie.

Getting your Herd in Calf

It's as simple as putting a bull out with your cows – right?

Well, if you're lucky - yes.

Luck has nothing to do with it.

Recently, we have discovered that even by eliminating 'luck', nature is more than capable of doing what it likes.

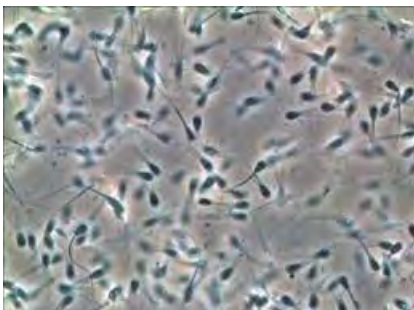
It is risky to assume all bulls are fertile, so we fertility test our bulls prior to joining. This involves a local bull fertility testing technician who brings his equipment to our farm and the collecting of a semen sample for analysis under the microscope.

This is done by restraining a bull safely in the crush and electro stimulating him to produce a sample of semen. It's a painless procedure for the bull. The technician immediately establishes how fertile a bull is or isn't by checking it under a microscope on-farm. He can also tell if the semen is of high enough quality to freeze into straws for Artificial Insemination.

Collecting straws for AI is a great way for other herds to use a bull without needing a bull on the property, as well as preserving his genetics as an insurance policy for the future after the bull has gone.

Fertile bulls can then proceed to an Export Approved collection centre for a working holiday to collect straws, if that is what the owner plans to do. Then the bull can return home.

Once a bull is proven fertile, he is good to go in with the cows for joining.



One of our bulls was busy working on cows that had not conceived following our AI program. On average, we expect about 60% of cows mated to AI will calve to AI. The other 40% will calve to the follow-up bulls, conceiving on the next cycle after AI.

We record all our AI and natural mating dates so we can calculate the gestation length of the calves, as well as other information that might come in handy.

Three months following on from the bull joinings, we suddenly noticed an abnormal influx of the cows he had mated, standing on heat, in other words, they weren't in calf! Six month old bull calves and pregnant in-calf cows are very good at picking who is not in calf by riding the empty cow when she is on heat. Recording matings and heats is useful. When the first few returned to heat, I casually assumed the females may have become infertile, which can happen for any number of reasons – age, stress, injury, infertile family lines, just to name a few, however my data collection suggested this was not the case.

All the early joined females had got in calf and were pregnant to the bull. All the last were not on calf, so what had happened?

I'd seen the bull active during the whole joining period.

Getting your Herd in Calf cont

As it turns out, we'd noted the bull had developed a very short step in his back legs sometime during mating which he hadn't had prior, but it didn't look any good.

So, in conclusion, my theory is that the bull had sustained an accident resulting in an injury. Often when a bull is sick and accompanied by a temperature, the semen that the bull then produces is dead because the bulls body heat has cooked it. The bull may have become temporarily infertile mid mating.

The other obvious conclusion may be that the bull was sore and wasn't mating the cows properly at all.

We now have 9 perfectly healthy and high quality Lowline cows to hold over for a year without calving to use as useful lawn mowers. That is quite an expensive mistake.

The moral of the story is to never assume your bulls are fertile, and never assume one bull alone will do the job.

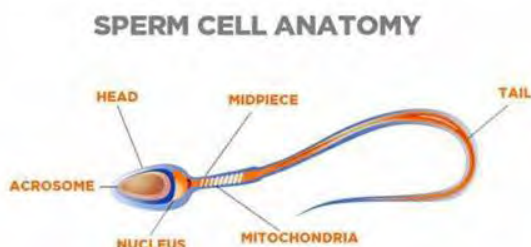
From now on, after AI, we will be putting at least 2 bulls out with each group of females and DNA testing can sort out which calf came from which bull (yes, DNA is that clever).

The best way to learn a lesson is the hard way, and 'A' calf is better than 'NO' calf, and multiple fertile bulls working together are better than one.

Lesson learned!

I hope this is helpful to others.....

Matt Wilkinson
Lowland Park Lowlines



ALCA Juniors

We love to see what our Junior members and Schools are doing.

Please send in your photos and articles to Julie Knight - wanamara@westnet.com.au



Leo Clarke, Proston State School (& Rockin J Lowlines) took out the Under 25 Years Junior Judges Competition at a recent local show in Queensland and is congratulated by judge Graeme Hoff.



Ariel Margrie, Eloura Park, with her 6 mth old bull, Eloura Park Chevrolet at Euroa Show in Victoria.

(Photo: Fleur Ferguson Photography)