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- The new herd management tool for Australian dairy farmers and their advisers

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The InCalf "vision"

"To enable Australian dairy farmers to achieve measured improvement in herd reproductive performance."

What is InCalf?

A performance report which measures individual herd fertility performance

A system which provides a reference manual, "tools" and support network to aid farmers in achieving improvements in herd fertility

InCalf's evolution from research to extension

1. Research

2. Info. transfer

3. Extension

National Dairy Herd Fertility Project:
>200 herds
40,000 cows

Phase 1 and 2 Extension:
400 advisers,

Adviser Training Course + Farmer Course

'96-'99 → '00-'01 → '04 → '05 → '07

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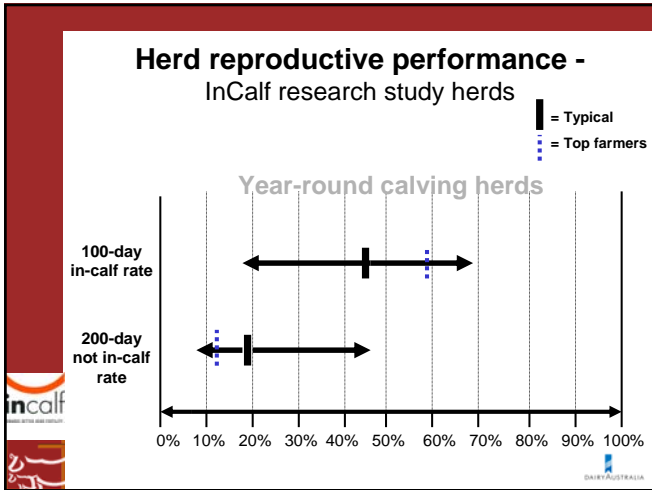
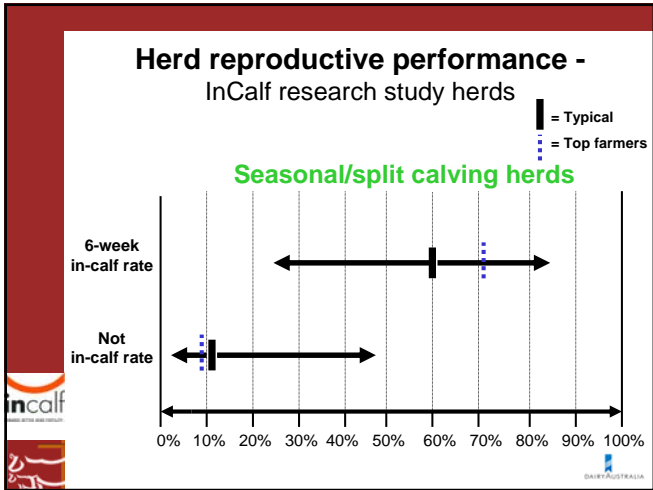
'96-'99 → '00-'01

InCalf research study answered these key questions:

- What are the best measures of overall herd reproductive performance?
- What are top farmers achieving?
- What herd management areas are most important to herd reproductive performance?


Key measures of overall herd reproductive performance in seasonal/split calving herds

- ➔ **6 week in-calf rate**
% of cows pregnant after 6 weeks of mating
- ➔ **Not-in-calf rate**
% of cows not pregnant at the end of a mating period



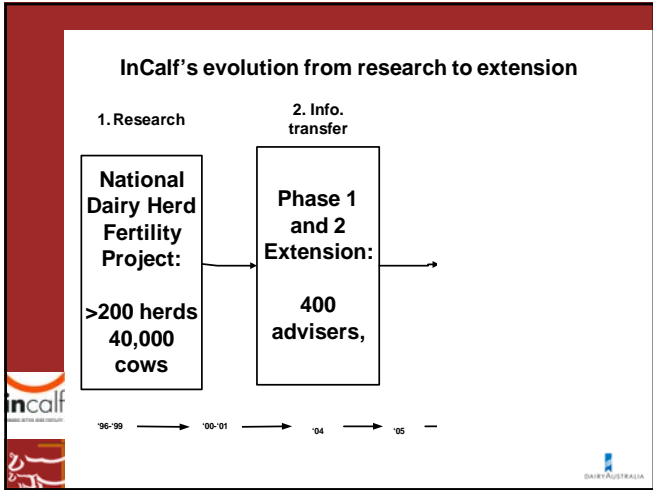
Herd Fertility

- Is like a cake
- Herd Management areas - 7 ingredients




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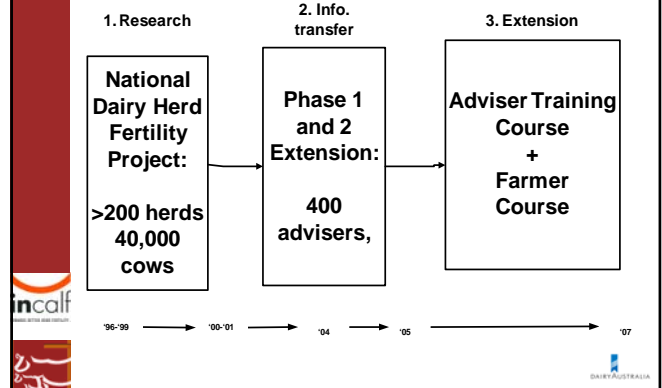




Problems in measuring herd reproductive performance:

- Lack of a common language
- Terms with more than one meaning
- Different terms used interchangeably (eg. conception rate and non-return rate).
- Limitations in the use of 'not-in-calf' rate as the only primary herd performance measure

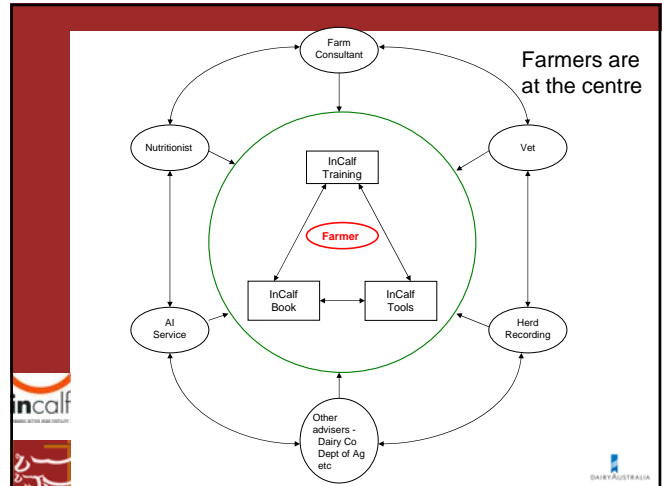


InCalf's evolution from research to extension

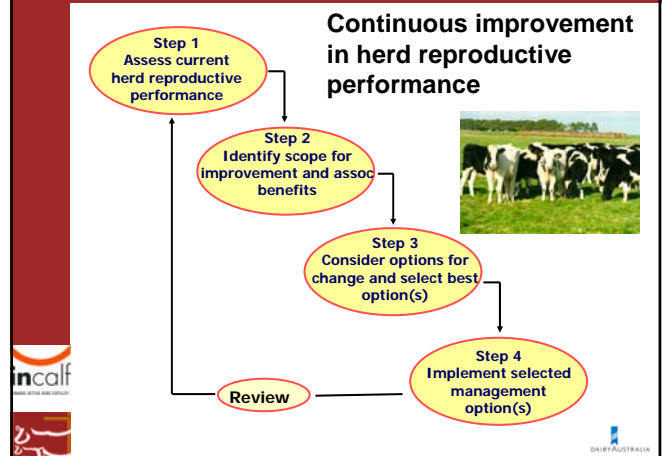


The InCalf "process"

- To focus on management change for incremental gains rather than "best management practice" and/or "problem solving"
- A process to support change through time
- Emphasis on networking between different advisers to support change



Continuous improvement in herd reproductive performance



Fertility Focus Report

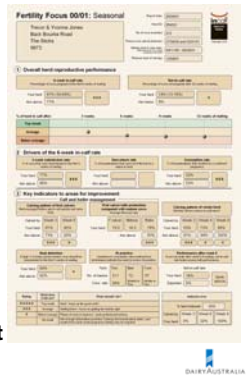
- Uses standard measures and calculations
- Enables comparison of herd reproductive performance year-to-year, with other herds and the InCalf targets
- Can be generated with minimal herd records
 - More data gives more accurate and complete picture
- Provided by InCalf-accredited providers:
 - Herd Improvement Centres, Advisors, Software programs



Standard performance measuring tool:

Fertility focus report answers 3 key questions:

- Where am I now?
- What improvements are realistically achievable for my herd?
- What areas for improvement should I be focusing on?



Fertility Focus 00/01: Seasonal

Report date: 20/06/01
 Herd ID: 654321
 No of cows included: 272
 These cows calved between: 27/06/00 and 02/01/01
 Making start & stop date: 04/11/00 - 05/04/01
 Planned start of calving: 13/08/01

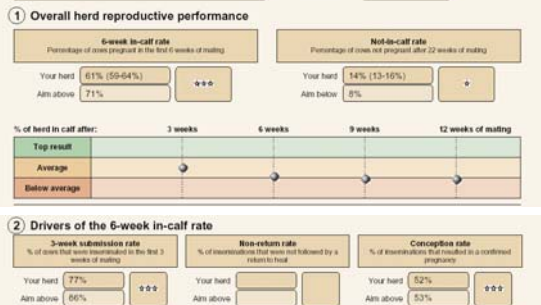
Trevor & Yvonne Jones
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3 Key indicators to areas for improvement

Call and heifer management

Calving pattern of first calvers	First calver milk production	Calving pattern of whole herd
Well managed heifers get in calf quickly and calve early	compared with mature cows	Did late calvers reduce in-calf rates?
Calved by Week 3: 61% Week 6: 82% Aim above: 73% 92%	Your herd: 15.0 Mature: 19.2 Ratio: 78% Aim above: 83%	Calved by Week 3: 53% Week 6: 73% Week 9: 89% Aim above: 61% 94% 100%

Heat detection
 A high % of early calved mature cows should be inseminated in the first 3 weeks of mating.
 Your herd: 84%
Aim above: 92%

AI practice
 Variations in conception rates achieved by technicians indicate the need to review AI practice.
 Tech: 211
 Yvonne: 57
 Conc. rate: 56%

Performance after week 6
 If you can bulk after week 6 of mating, not in-calf rate helps assess herd performance.
 Your herd: 14%
 Expected: 9%

Induced cows

% herd induced: 16%
Calved by Week 3: 6% Week 6: 22% Week 9: 99%

Rating
 What does it tell you?
 ***** Top result: Ideal - keep up the good work!
 **** Average: Getting there - focus on getting the details right.
 *** Below average: Plenty of room to improve - seek professional advice.
 ** Not enough information provided. Calving and insemination dates, and results from early rectal pregnancy testing may be required.
 * No result



InCalf resources



www.incalf.com.au



National Analysis

InCalf NatSCAN analysis of herd reproductive performance

- National
- Regional

uses same measures / calculation methods as **Fertility Focus Report**

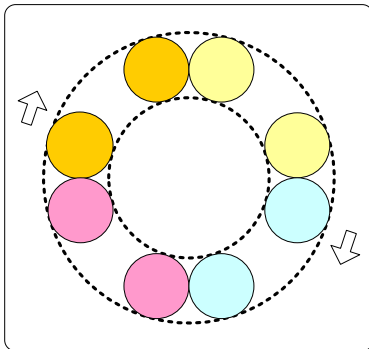


InCalf Adviser Training Course

Courses are conducted across Australia = 300 InCalf-trained advisers



InCalf Farmer Action Groups



Conclusion

FF report allows farmers to access current fertility performance

FF report uses std terminology for fertility measures

Incentive for farmers to collect & record data

Extra value from herd recording



Questions?

