



Contact Mike Weise at WestVic Dairy
Tel 55922477 or 0427 947691
Fax 55921342
Address PO Box 67 Terang 3264

MEDIA RELEASE

A Cow fertility workshop in Warrnambool later this month will help farmers understand and address infertility problems, one of a number of big on farm issues facing the dairy industry.

WestVic Dairy will host the 'High In Calf Rate – Is It Conceivable?' workshop at 10.45 – 2.30pm on Friday September 17.

'High In Calf Rate – Is It Conceivable?' will bring together four breeding and fertility experts and provide farmers and service providers with an example set of local cow fertility results, findings to help farmers get better conception rates and a glimpse at what is in the cattle breeding pipeline.

WestVic Dairy Executive Officer Mike Weise said infertility problems had been identified as a major problem for farmers.

"Across 10 farmer forums held this year by WestVic Dairy we have heard from a good proportion of farmers that on some farms it's getting harder to get cows in calf," Mr Weise said.

One of the presenters at 'High In Calf Rate – Is It Conceivable?' is Warrnambool-based veterinarian and dairy consultant Mike Hamblin. Mr Hamblin recently released a study which found cow infertility on 19 of his client's farms, as measured by six week in calf rates, was decreasing at a rate of about 1.8 per cent each year. The 21-week empty rates have reached 18 per cent.

Mr Weise said the workshop was part of a concerted campaign to address the issue on a national and local level. He said levy funds were being used on a variety of fertility programs aimed at helping farmers, a five program piece of work under the In Calf project (now in its 10th year) plus a Framlingham based cow fertility research project backed by WestVic Dairy, Warrnambool Vet Clinic, Melbourne University and the farm, owners.

He said 'High In Calf Rate – Is It Conceivable?' would include four 30-minute presentations with time for questions and discussion. Speakers include Mr Hamblin and Barrie Zimmerman, Michele Axford and Dave Nation the leaders of In Calf, Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme and Dairy Futures CRC programs.

During the workshop lunch break WestVic Dairy will hold their AGM and distribute \$1000 worth of door prizes.

Mr Weise said farmers, their staff and service providers were invited to attend the workshop.

Farmers and service providers interested in attending must register by contacting WestVic Dairy on 55 922477 or through the web site www.westvicdairy.com.au.

R I C K B A Y N E

174 Skene Street Warrnambool VIC 3280

telephone: 0418 140 489

email: mediamastersvic@bigpond.com

abn: 15 299 391 385

M e d i a M a s t e r s V i c

