



Milk Pregnancy Testing on LIC Herd Test Samples

Overview

Milk pregnancy testing is a convenient, non-invasive method for pregnancy diagnosis using your herd test samples.

Milk pregnancy testing can detect pregnancy 28 days from conception. For this reason we recommend the test is used 28 days or more after your final mating or once bulls have been removed.

After calving it takes up to 60 days for pregnancy associated glycoproteins to be un-detected.

The test will return one of three results:

- Pregnant
- No pregnancy detected
- Re-check

Please note that the test does not age pregnancies.

The test can be completed on both whole herds (all animals at the herd test) and partial herds (a select group of animals at the herd test - minimum 25 samples). Please note that an additional administration fee of \$49.95 + GST will be applied to partial herds.

The cost of milk pregnancy testing is \$3.99+ GST per sample.

The turnaround time for results is approximately 5- 7 working days from receipt of the herd test lab strip and results will be uploaded to MINDA® LIVE.

How does the test work?

The milk pregnancy test is an enzyme- linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) developed by IDEXX laboratories. It can detect pregnancy associated glycoproteins (PAGs) produced by the placenta as a marker for pregnancy.

What validation has been carried out on milk pregnancy testing?

LIC's milk pregnancy test has been validated against veterinary pregnancy diagnosis and monitored since its commercial launch in 2011. After the 2017/18 season, modifications were made to the test's parameters to optimize test accuracy.

How accurate is the milk pregnancy test?

A 'pregnant' result has a 99% accuracy. False positives may occur if an animal has recently aborted as pregnancy protein levels take at least two weeks to drop following a slip.

A 'no pregnancy detected' result has a 95% accuracy. False negatives may occur where an animal is less than 28 days pregnant or where the animal has failed to produce enough glycoproteins for the test to detect. Glycoprotein levels will vary from animal to animal.

How many re-checks should I expect?

To optimize test accuracy, changes were made to the 're-check' category. You should expect to re-check around 10% of your herd. We recommend re-checks are completed via scanning with a vet or other provider.

Further information

For further information on milk pregnancy testing or to book a test please contact the Animal Health Advisor team at LIC on 0800 436 362 or email testyourcows@lic.co.nz

Milk pregnancy testing is a service provided by LIC and is governed by the LIC Conditions and Service Rules available at www.lic.co.nz.