

### What is the cause of a retained placenta?

- Silages with a high DCAD(dietary cation anion difference) calculated by  $(K+Na)-(Cl+S)$ . This is mainly due to a high reading for the potash. This has the effect of reducing the animal's ability to mobilise calcium causing poor muscle contraction of the uterus which will result in retained placenta. Sub-clinical **milk fever** will be present it is estimated 70% of cows suffer this.
- Cows who have a **history** of retained placenta, have an increased chance of retention on subsequent calvings
- Herds with management problems, **nutritional deficiencies**, **metabolic diseases**, or acute mastitis at calving have an increase chance of retention of placenta's.
- Herds infected with brucellosis, leptospirosis, vibriosis, listeriosis, infectious bovine rhinotracheitis and/or other infectious organisms, retention of fetal membranes may occur in 50% or more of the cows.

### Nutritional Solutions : Preventative measures 6-8weeks precalving

Feed good quality silage with a good quality mineral/vitamin supplement

The precalving animal requires a minimum of 48g of magnesium per head per day or 0.4% of the DM. The average magnesium in Irish silages 2010 is 0.17% of the Dry matter. This will provide the animal with 20.4 g of magnesium per day when feeding 12kgs of silage (DM) per day. Feeding 100 g of Nutribio X mag vitamin E (28% Magnesium) will provide the remainder of the magnesium requirement.

Feeding a 15% magnesium precalver mineral will provide the animal with 15g per head per day and sometimes this will work because the magnesium in the silage is greater than the average level or if concentrates are also being fed.

### IF COWS HAVE STARTED TO CALVE DOWN AND ARE EXPERIENCING PROBLEMS WITH RETAINED PLACENTAS, TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS

- 1) Give the animals **CAHL calciject 400** or **Calcium boroglucanate** and see a response: if the placenta is passed, then one is dealing with sub-clinical milk fever proceed to step 2 or 3.
- 2) If the farmer is TMR feeding he should feed **Nutribio calcium chloride flake** at 100-120g per head per day **2-3 weeks precalving no sooner**. To do this safely, yes the farmer can feed it straight away, but send off a silage sample for a DCAD reading of the forage (this will take 2 – 3 weeks). **Also continue to feed the precalver mineral as well** but insure the animal is getting 48gms of Magnesium per head per day by increasing feeding rate *if necessary* or feed Nutribio **Sweetened Cal Mag** (see magnesium calculations below).
- 3) Nutribio Calcium Chloride flake can sometimes be unpalatable (if the farmer is not a TMR feeding) in this case **Nutribio Transition cow mineral** can be feed at 250- 300g per head per day in this transition period (**must not be feed before 2-3 weeks precalving**). This will provide the magnesium and the calcium chloride flake in the one product.
- 4) If there is no response to calciject 400 or Calcium boroglucanate then Nutribiosol Vitamin A, D<sub>3</sub>, E needs to be introduced as vitamin E/A/D<sub>3</sub> levels are an issue. Feed at 1 scoop per head per day for 3 weeks up to calving.

### Calculating Magnesium levels in the diet

- If the farmer is feeding a 28% magnesium mineral = 280g/1000kgs , then feeding 100g per head per day will provide the animals with 28g per day
- If the farmer is feeding a 15% magnesium mineral = 150g/1000kgs, then feeding 100g per head per day will provide the animals with 15g per day
- If the farmer is feeding Nutribio sweetened cal mag which is 33% magnesium =330 g / 1000kg then feeding 100 g will give the animal 33g per head per day.
- Silage will provide on average 0.17% magnesium DM intake so if feeding 12kgs silage DM (12000g x 0.17) 20.4g of magnesium will be supplied.
- If feeding concentrates check the bag to see what magnesium this is supplying



**If unsure please contact Nutribio Nutritionist Pat o Byrne on 087-2519993**