



Mating Focus

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Assess your performance

- Are you really as good as you think you are?
- How do you assess your past performance?
- Have you heard of a Fertility Focus Report?
 - Available from Minda, Mistro and InfoVet
 - Targets are average of top 25% of farmers reproductive performance
- Have you seen a Return Interval Analysis report?

Fertility Focus Report

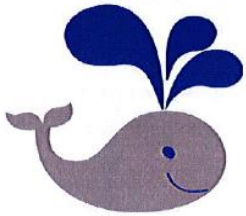
- Common farmer issues with the report:
 - Incorrect cow numbers (carryovers included but forgotten)
 - Not submitting culls for AB or running non-cyclers with the bull, heats are not captured in the records, along with carryovers
 - Using cidr's, ovsynch etc artificially lifts submission rates and heat detection measures
 - Understanding removal of cows has impact on final figure, report makes assumptions for their reproductive outcome
 - Partial report unless early pregnancy testing done to confirm all dat
 - FFR can be trusted if farm data is accurate!

Fertility Focus Report

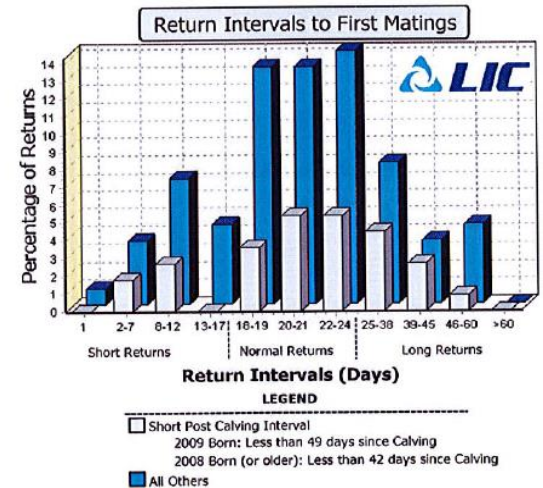
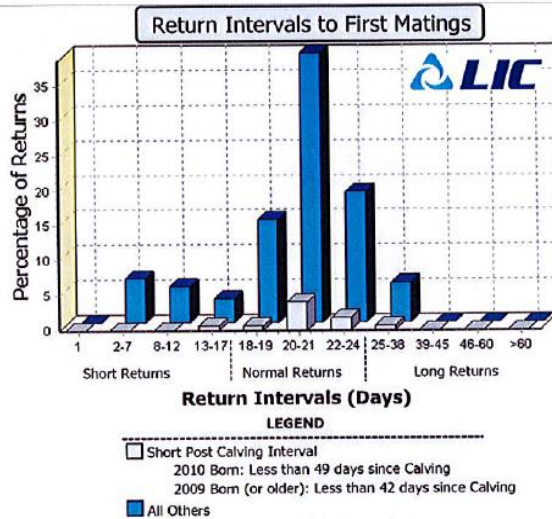
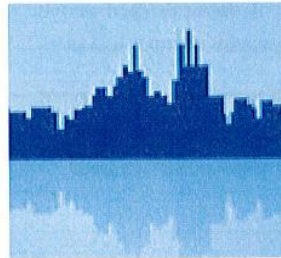
- › **Case Example:**
 - › Heat Detection
 - › 3 week submission rate
 - › 3 week submission rate of first calvers
 - › % of herd in calf graph
 - › 6 week in calf rate and MT rate

Return Interval Analysis

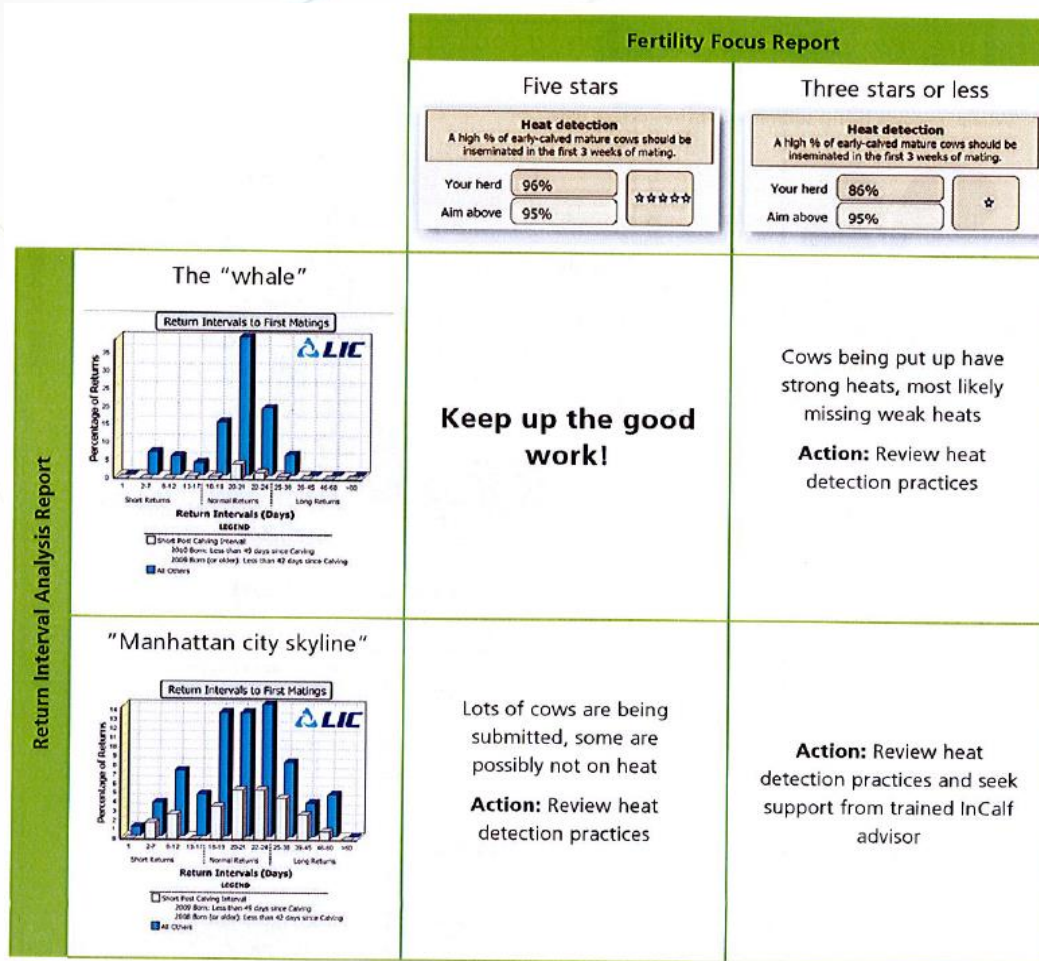
The "Whale"—cows being submitted at the correct time



"Manhattan City Skyline"—cows submitted without accuracy



Return Interval Analysis



Veterinary Intervention

- Nutrition – monitor BCS pre-calving and post-calving – act early to avoid a disaster
- Premating heats
 - Targets are 75% cycled 10 days prior to PSM, 85% cycled at PSM
 - Useful for staff training, heat detection system review
 - Reference for heats during AB if recorded
 - Early detection of problems?
- Why Wait program – for cycling cows only
 - Condenses first 3 weeks of mating into first 10 days
 - Need to be prepared for following calving season – staff, feed etc.
 - Requires detection of premating heats, a good tail paint system and good organization and record keeping

Veterinary Intervention

- CIDRs – most cost effective when done early i.e. 10 days prior to PSM
- Heifer Synchrony
 - Heifers need to have reached target weight and puberty to give good results – MINDA Weights
 - CIDR vs double PG
 - AB Calves, faster genetic gain, more days in milk, more time to get ready for following mating
 - Need to be able to manage heifers at calving, lots of bull power for subsequent cycles (1 bull can only mate approx. 3 animals per day), heat detection methods

Bull Power

Plenty of bulls and good management can make up for early breeding mistakes

- Numbers – heaps!!! (not a liability)
- Minimum number required in herd at any one time thus need to double this

Likely % of herd pregnant at start of bull mating				
No. cows in milking herd	Very low (less than 40%)	Low (40–50%)	Moderate (50–70%)	High (more than 70%)
100	2-4	2-3	2	2
200	5-6	4-5	3	2
300	7-8	6	4-5	3
400	9-11	7-8	5-6	3-4
500	12-13	9-10	7	4-5
600	14-15	11-12	8-9	5-6

Bull Power

- Get on farm early so can sort out social order
- Keep in same subgroups for rotation
- BVD test **and** Vaccinate at least 8 weeks prior
- Rotation - daily
- Not allowed on yard
- Remove immediately if lame – can affect sperm production for 6 weeks thus remove completely