

Mastitis Focus fact sheet

Your calving system

Cows are very susceptible to infection around calving because their natural defence mechanisms are low. New infections occur, and subclinical infections which have persisted through the dry period may flare into clinical cases.

Understanding your report

The **Clinical Case Rate** at Calving at the top of your report in **Your Herd Annual Performance Summary** shows the success of calving systems used in your herd over the entire report period, compared to trigger.

If you would like more detailed interpretation about what is happening in your herd contact an adviser in your area and/or visit smartsamm.co.nz. Tips for minimising mastitis around calving are found in Healthy Udder and in Guidelines 1 to 4 under Resources > Guidelines > Calving.

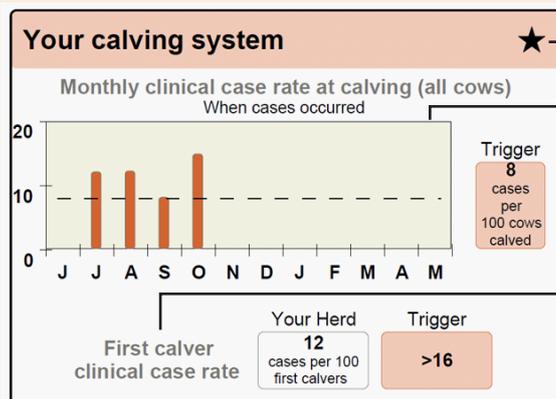
Your calving system

The **Your Calving System** box has more detail about clinical case rates at calving. It shows when problems occurred compared to trigger. First calving heifers are reported as a separate group as they are at higher risk at calving.



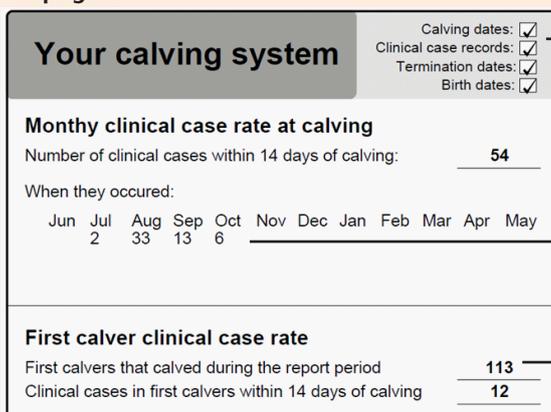
Tip: On page 2 of your report, the **Farm Data Box** shows the number of cows calved each month and the number of clinical cases - make sure the numbers look right!

On page 1



- A single star rating indicates that you need to take action
- The graph shows the rate of clinical cases occurring within 14 days of calving in each month
- If first calvers have a high clinical case rate then review the calving environment, and your prevention strategies.
- If a tick is missing it means that those records were not available. Include all records to get a comprehensive report

On page 2



- These are the actual number of clinical cases that occurred in the first 14 days after calving
- **Trap:** If too many animals have been classed as first calvers it may indicate that not all birthdates were available. The clinical case rate for this group will also be incorrect
- **Trap:** Make sure that everyone understands and follows the farm protocol for detecting clinical mastitis so that cows are not being missed or treated unnecessarily.

Your records required for an accurate report

- Complete clinical case records around calving (intramammary and injectable antibiotics)
- Accurate calving dates
- Birthdates to identify first calvers.