

OESTRADIOL

RESTRICTIONS ON USE IN LACTATING COWS

What is oestradiol?

Oestradiol is a prescription (S4) veterinary medicine used in oestrus synchronisation programs and historically for the treatment of non-cycling cows. Trade names of products containing oestradiol that are currently registered include Bomero[®] and Gonadiol[®]. Cidirol[®], which is no longer registered, also contained oestradiol.

What are the restrictions on the use of oestradiol?

Oestradiol must not be used in lactating (milking) dairy cows in Australia. Oestradiol can continue to be used for oestrus synchrony programs in non-lactating heifers. In either case, Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) and dairy food safety programs require that all treatments are recorded. Milk companies may also use this information to provide market assurance as required.

Why are there restrictions on the use of oestradiol?

In 2008, the whole-of-industry implemented a voluntary ban of the use of oestradiol in lactating dairy cows in Australia. The purpose of this ban was to ensure we maintained access to our export markets worth approximately A\$3.3 billion.¹ A breach of compliance could have large ramifications for the dairy industry that include the loss of market access as well as jeopardise our quality assurance programs, adding significant costs to all dairy farmers.

KEY POINTS

Oestradiol is a veterinary medicine used in synchronisation programs

It must not be used in lactating (milking) dairy cows

This ensures access to our A\$3.3 billion dairy export industry

Alternatives are available for synchrony and the treatment of non-cycling lactating cows

Your vet can help you to choose the most appropriate program your herd

What alternatives are available?

Where herd management needs and/or the requirement to synchronise or treat non-cycling lactating cows continues to exist, there are several alternative programs to those that use oestradiol. The programs typically involve the use of products containing gonadorelin (also known as GnRH). Examples of registered products containing gonadorelin include Fertagyl[®], Ovurelin[®] and Gonasyn[®]. You should always discuss the use of synchrony and non-cycling cow treatments with your veterinarian to determine the best option.

1 The Australian Dairy Industry In Focus 2021