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StayDry Pre Drop™ increases productivity and efficiency in northern NSW

Ask Kerry Miller to define a successful season on 'Glen Alvie' in northern NSW, and the answer is simple – maximise the number of healthy calves on the ground, while allowing the cattle to re-present for another breeding programme as soon as possible.

Kerry works for Stone Axe Pastoral Company on the 2,200-hectare 'Glen Alvie', which is just outside of Armidale, in the New England area.

They use sires for the full-blood Wagyu market to breed their own cattle, which eventually wind up in feedlots after backgrounding on a separate property within the business.

They use Embryo Transfer (ET) technology for approximately 70 per cent of their stock, Artificially Inseminate (AI) 10 per cent and the remaining 20 per cent are naturally mated.

“We actually try to set our programmes up to have two main calving periods a year, in autumn and spring, as they are our best grazing times to get calving going ahead quickly,” Kerry explains.

“Our greatest loss during calving would be in our heifers walking off on calves after a difficult labour, retained placentas and the drain that has on us actually being able to re-utilize any of our stock going back into a future programme.”



“We had a test mob that had approximately 40 days before they were due to calve, so we introduced StayDry Pre Drop, fed it to them every day, and saw some amazing results.”

Kerry Miller

“It became clear that we needed to optimise cattle health so there’s ease of calving and the cows are available to come back in a good condition and in a timely fashion - ideally we would like to have a zero calving assist rate.”

After encountering some issues in the farming operation the ‘Glen Alvie’ team engaged with a Grow Livestock Agronomist, who visited the property to provide some advice. This resulted in the establishment of a test mob to see if StayDry Pre Drop, a nutritional lick powder supplement, would deliver benefits to the system in the lead-up to calving.



“We had two calves to pull out of the entire 295 head the mob we supplemented with StayDry Pre Drop, no retained placentas and no walk-offs - everyone was healthy and happy.”

StayDry Pre Drop is designed to reduce birth difficulties in heifers and maidens, optimise immune system function and improve colostrum quality, all of which combines to increase survival and growth rates in offspring.

“We had a test mob that had approximately 40 days before they were due to calve, so we introduced StayDry Pre Drop, fed it to them every day, and saw some amazing results,” Kerry says.

While the product was easy to use, the real test comes in the in-field performance, with Kerry reporting they were very happy with the results in the test mob.

“Moving forward we’ll be using StayDry Pre Drop in the lead-up times for all our calving heifers because we don’t want setbacks for our heifers, and we also need the calves to have good colostrum intake.”

“We had two calves to pull out of the entire 295 head the mob we supplemented with StayDry Pre Drop, no retained placentas and no walk-offs - everyone was healthy and happy,” she says.

“We had a mob of 350 from the same purchase group which didn’t receive the product, and I ended up with 14 poddy calves to rear when mothers had obviously walked off after a troubled labour, and we had several retained placentas that we had to also sort out in that mob.”

As a powder in a 20-kilogram bag, Kerry says she found the StayDry Pre Drop very easy to feed out and it handled wet conditions well.

Kerry says the extent of the success of the StayDry Pre Drop in the test mob was a pleasant surprise, and has made the decision to continue using the product moving forward an easy one.

“We were really grateful that we had decided to try the product, reducing the time we have to spend dealing with those kinds of situations,” she explains.

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Kerry says the Grow Livestock Agronomist also played a critical role in the success of StayDry Pre Drop in the 2018 season.

“We are going to continue to use the Grow Livestock Agronomy services for all production areas based on the information and support we got with StayDry Pre Drop,” she says.

“We would like to continue to utilise their products and their knowledge to make sure that we get the best production outcomes for all levels of the business.”



For more information call **1800 678 368** or visit **www.growsolutions.com.au**

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