

valacta

# Dairy Knowledge at your fingertips



## GestaLab

### Benefits that count, and can be counted!

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Valacta, your centre of expertise, is proud to offer a useful new tool to help with reproduction management. GESTALAB is a **pregnancy confirmation** test offered starting at 60 days post breeding using your **milk recording sample**. The test is performed on the sample that you already send to the Valacta laboratory, so it couldn't be easier and it requires no extra manipulation on your part!

Valacta also offers an automatic option reminding you of which cows should be tested.

#### WHY SHOULD PREGNANCIES BE CONFIRMED AT 60 TO 90 DAYS?

For reproduction management to be efficient, non-fertile inseminations need to be identified as soon as possible. **Early pregnancy diagnosis** ensures that cows that are not in gestation following insemination can be rebred as quickly as possible.

The rate of embryo loss in early gestation is relatively high and can widely vary from one herd to another. Experts estimate that 10 to 15% of cows with a positive early pregnancy diagnosis (28 days post-breeding) may no longer be pregnant one month later.

Early embryonic loss often goes undetected as heat detection efforts are often focused on open cows. The resulting economic losses are often more substantial since there is a prolonged delay before the next successful breeding... (To be continued on page 2)



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# GestaLab

CONTINUED

## Benefits that count, and can be counted!

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Experts, therefore, recommend that a second test be done to confirm that the pregnancy has been sustained. This confirmation is best performed between 60 and 90 days post-breeding both because the rate of embryo loss 100 days or more post breeding is low and because after the calf has been carried 100 days the producer has a greater chance of detecting abortion.

### CAN I USE GESTALAB FOR EARLY PREGNANCY DIAGNOSIS?

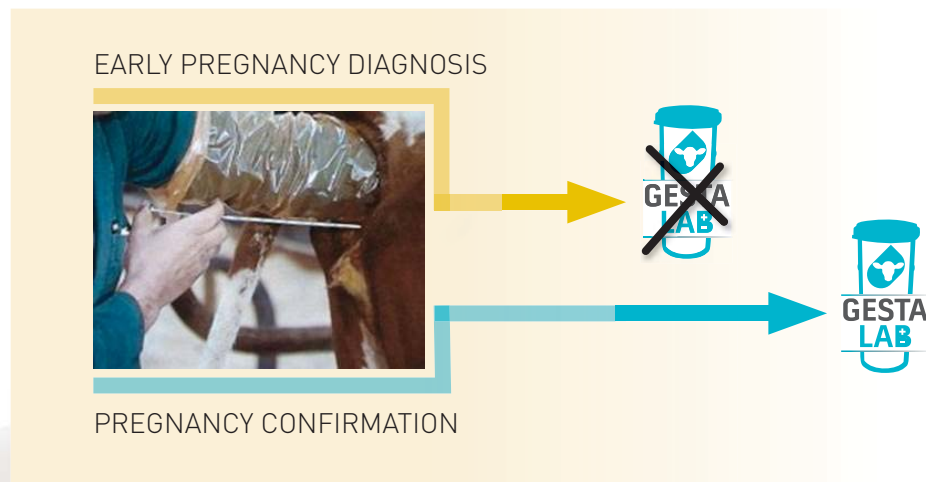
Not yet! For the time being, GESTALAB is not being offered for early pregnancy diagnosis. Clinical testing is underway in order to determine how the test performs in the context of early pregnancy diagnosis. The results of this study will determine what we will be able to offer in the future.

Valacta recommends to proceed with an early pregnancy diagnosis as planned with your veterinarian.

### ECONOMIC LOSSES ASSOCIATED WITH ABORTION

Undetected embryo loss results in a longer calving-conception interval and consequently delays the next calving date.

**A longer calving interval brings about economic losses of around \$4 per day.**



GestaLab can help limit the negative economic impact of embryo loss. Let's take a closer look:

Take for example, a cow that is diagnosed by the veterinarian as pregnant at around 80 days in milk using early pregnancy diagnosis at 30 days post breeding.

**Good news! My cow that was inseminated at 50 days in milk is pregnant!**



→→ **UNFORTUNATELY, AN UNDETECTED EMBRYO LOSS OCCURS NOT LONG AFTERWARDS.**

**1**

If you have included pregnancy confirmation in your reproduction management strategy.



Embryo loss is detected at 110 days in milk. A re-check to confirm the pregnancy is done 30 days later, around 60 days post breeding so that the embryo loss is identified at 110 days in milk.



Let's say a successful breeding takes place 10 days later,



The delay will have been 70 days of lactation ... an economic loss of \$280.

**2**

If you choose not to use pregnancy confirmation,



The embryo loss may remain undetected for quite some time.



One morning ... at 220 days in milk ... my cow is in heat!  
An exam by the veterinarian confirms that she is no longer pregnant. Much more time has been lost!



Assuming that the cow is successfully bred during this heat ... there will still have been a delay of 170 days in milk ... an economic loss of \$680.

**The decision not to include pregnancy confirmation in my reproduction management strategy just cost me \$400.**

For a 70 cow herd with a calving interval of 400 days ... the economic losses associated with the producer's decision not to use pregnancy confirmation represents the costs associated with using GESTALAB pregnancy confirmation for a year.

## INTERPRETING TEST RESULTS

- When a GESTALAB result is **positive**: the cow **is** declared pregnant on the report.
- Based on the test's positive predictive value ... the cow is pregnant.
- When a GESTALAB result is **negative**: the cow is declared open on the report.
- Based on the test's negative predictive value ... the cow **is probably** not pregnant.
  - In this situation, Valacta recommends that the cow is examined by a veterinarian before taking action.
- Occasionally there will be "inconclusive" results
  - This type of result signifies that placental protein levels aren't high enough to conclude that the cow is pregnant or low enough to conclude that the cow is not pregnant (open).
- Cows with "inconclusive" results require a second evaluation either by a veterinarian or by repeating the GESTALAB analysis at the following test.

**You will not be charged for inconclusive results!**

.....  
**PAG =  
Pregnancy-  
Associated  
Glycoprotein**

**Glycoprotein  
secreted by  
the placenta  
signals the  
presence of  
a fetus**  
.....



## GESTALAB...

### A FLEXIBLE SERVICE ADAPTED TO YOUR REPRODUCTION MANAGEMENT

You can choose between **automatic service** (scheduled analysis) and **occasional service** at a price of \$6.00 per sample.

The service is timely; the results are included with your milk recording results.

Don't let those open days pile up!



Talk to your Valacta  
technician or advisor

**1-800-266-5248**