

## Retained Foetal Membranes



- ◆ Post calving retained placenta can be followed by a uterine infection inducing poor conception and prolonged period from calving to first oestrus.
- ◆ Predisposing factors include
  - a) *Low dietary selenium and Vitamin E*
  - b) *Prolonged and difficult calving*
  - c) *Introduction of infection during assisted calving*

### Assays:

GSHPx (selenium dependent enzyme), vitamin E, urea, haemoglobin, calcium, magnesium and phosphorus

### Guide to sampling a herd problem

- ◆ Samples should be taken from 6 cows within the 24 hours after calving, in herds where retained foetal membranes are a significant problem.

### The cost of retained foetal membranes:

- ◆ **Veterinary costs of cleansing and antibiotic treatment**
- ◆ **Prolonged time to first oestrus**
- ◆ **Poor conception rate**

### Samples Required

*Serum (clotted blood) & heparin blood (green top)*



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