

Hind conception dates from on-farm studies of pre and post rut weaning over 2 years



These results are from a two year study on commercial farms and highlight the differences between years and between farms. A small advantage in conception date can be seen from early weaning, but the individual farm data show how management can make a significant difference to the outcome.

■ Early weaned

- in 1999 conceived 12 days earlier
- in 2000 conceived 7 days earlier

The advantage of earlier conception may be translated into earlier calving and so increase weaning weight by an average of 350 g/d. This equals 4.2 kg in 1999 (12 d x 0.35 kg/d) or 2.45 kg in 2000.

Conception rate variation between farms (days from January 1) are recorded in the table below and show the large variation in conception date, based on the management and feed available.

Farm	March weaned	June weaned
1	97	106
2	88	91
3	91	89
4	75	94