

# Reproductive Hormone Programs

Volume 1, Issue 1

Newsletter Date

## Improving Rebro

- Use timed AI to breed all cows by 80 days in milk
- Have herd checks every 2-4 weeks
- Have a plan on what to do with open cows at herd check
- Use hormones to improve service efficiency and set goals for your repro program

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## Why consider timed AI programs to improve reproductive efficiency?

One of the most limiting factors in managing reproduction on your farm is detecting cows in heat and breeding them on time. Using reproductive hormones forces producers to time breed cows in order to limit the number of days open.

By limiting the number of days open, we lower average days in milk of a herd which increases milk production because everybody knows milking fresh cows is where the profit is made on a dairy. Furthermore, when cows are bred back on time, we increase the number of replacements that are available to replace our cull cows.

The two areas we like to discuss when managing reproduction on a dairy farm are:

1. How do you breed cows for first service?
2. What do you do with open cows at herd check?



Managing cows at first service is one of the easiest ways to improve your reproduction. All cows should be inseminated by 80 days in milk. If you “wait and see” when cows will come into heat to breed them you will miss heats and too many cows will be too far fresh when they are bred the first time.

We also want to breed cows in a timely manner after herd checks. Keeping cows on a schedule works for every dairy...it increases the chances a cow will get pregnant by taking out human error.

The most common error is assuming that hormones improve conception rates...they only increase heat detection.

## First Service Insemination

The three most common programs to use for first service insemination are **G-6-G**, **Presynch** and **Double Ovsynch**. All of these programs are a variation of OVSYNCH, however the conception rates on these programs

is usually better than OVSYNCH alone. OVSYNCH works better if cows are started at day 5 to 12 of the cycle. These programs attempt to put the cow at the correct stage of the cycle when OVSYNCH is started.

If you decide to OVSYNCH, your conception will improve if you have cows ultrasounded for a CL before they are started on OVSYNCH.

# Managing open cows at herd check

If you are an AI bred herd, it always pays to be on a monthly herd check. This ensures that bred cows that do not settle are re-serviced in an efficient amount of time. The quickest way to get behind on your reproduction is to not have timely herd checks.

## RESYNCH

This program is ideal if you are on monthly herd check and are a tie stall dairy or you have difficulty catching cows in heat. All cows due for preg check are given



GNRH 1 week before herd check. At herd check, all open cows with a CL are continued with the OVSYNCH program with the LUT shot. Cows will then be bred in 3 days and should be 27 days at the next herd check. The advantage of this program is efficiency and the disadvantage is we sometimes get a bit lower conception on some breedings with this program.

## OVSYNCH

All open cows with a CL are started on OVSYNCH at herd check.

The advantage of this program is that we get good conception rates. The disadvantage is that cows will not be checked for pregnancy at next herd check. This program is ideal if you want an every other week herd check which works very nicely for several dairies.

On some dairies, using LUT and heat detecting cows after herd check works well if cows can be heat detected! Of course, some cows will need special treatment depending on what we find with our ultrasound...non-cycling cows, cystic cows and cows close to heat are usually not enrolled in these programs.

## Why doesn't this work doc???

Repro hormone programs can fail and this is why it is important to work with your veterinarian to ensure the success of your program. Here are some problems we see:

1. Expecting too much! We should get 30-50% of cows pregnant with these programs...not 90%!!
2. Use the proper size syringes and needles. Too big may

3. Give shots in the back leg in the muscle
4. Store hormones in the refrigerator if the label says to keep cool.

*Expect conception rates of 30-50% with timed AI programs.*

5. Do not intervene with the program....the program works by eliminating human decisions so don't try to improve something we know already works. Breed cows according to schedule
6. Do not use on sick or lame cows.

## What program should you use???

Ask us! We don't just want to scan your cows for pregnancy....we want to help you manage your reproduction to make your farm more profitable. Ask your veterinarian to evaluate your reproduction and work with you to develop a program that will work with your



management style. At the next herd check simply ask "What should I be doing to manage my reproduction more efficiently?" We can review the various programs with you to help you schedule your cows. Remember that having regular herd

checks is the first thing to accomplish. Our practice also offers a herd records service to help you both evaluate your reproduction as well as help you schedule cows for hormone timed AI breedings.

## USDA Announces Dairy Economic Loss Assistance Payment Program

We all know that 2009 will go down as one of the most difficult years in the dairy industry. We are happy and hopeful that the price of milk will continue to improve so that our producers can once again show a profit for all of the hard work you do every day.

The USDA has recently announced a dairy payment program to offset some of the losses experienced during 2009. This program is run by the USDA. Eligible producers will receive a one time payment based on the amount of milk marketed from February to July 2009 which will be annualized to calculate an estimate for a full years production

with a production cap of 6 million pounds per year. It is estimated that the payment will be 32 cents per hundredweight of milk shipped for 2009. Producers who are not enrolled in any other programs and wish to be eligible for this payment should contact their local Farm Service Agency office for enrollment information. Producers have until January 19, 2010 to apply.

Richland County 419-747-8686

Ashland County 419-289-6951

Huron County 419-668-4113



## Save the date for our next dairy producers meeting

We are planning our next dairy producer meeting. Last year we had a record attendance and we are putting a lot of effort into making this an even better meeting. Come join us for a day of dairy topic talks from the veterinary staff at CRVS, have a nice lunch, visit sponsor booths and chat with neighbors and dairy producers while getting out of the cold for a day!

We had great feedback from our sponsors last year about how much they enjoyed our producers visiting their displays and talking with them before and after the meeting so come with your questions.

This year we will have three short

talks. Ellen Hartz will talk about vaccine programs for dairy farms from calf to cow. Dave Brennan will be discussing lameness treatment and prevention. Fred Gingrich will be discussing nutrition management. Come join us!

*Country Roads Veterinary  
Services producer meeting  
February 17th 2010*

## Merry Christmas to all!

We want to thank all of our dairy producers for your business this past year. We enjoy working with all of you and greatly appreciate your efforts every day to feed the world with delicious, safe and healthy dairy products.



We look forward to working with you in the years to come. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

All of us at Country Roads Vet Svc

Fred, Dave, Ellen, Pam, Michelle and Beth.

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*This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.*

*It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.*



*Your business tag line here.*



# Back Page Story Headline

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to

list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.



Caption describing picture or graphic.