



Spring 2003

Current Events

Western Dairy Management Conference, Reno, Nevada, March 12-14. For more information: www.wdmc.org

DHI-Plus Dairy Producer and Consultants Meetings, Nampa, Idaho, March 18; Twin Falls, Idaho, March 19. For more information contact Joe Dalton at 459-6365 or jdalton@uidaho.edu

Tri-State Northwest Dairy Shortcourse, Pasco, Washington, April 9-10. For more information: <http://capps.wsu.edu/dairy>

Wanted!

Dairy owners and managers interested in maximizing quality and profits from dairy beef.

Why? Because market cows represent up to 15% of a dairy's income. Plan on attending a new dairy beef educational program on **Friday, March 28, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**, at the UI Caldwell Research and Extension Center, 16952 S. Tenth Avenue, Caldwell. Lunch will be provided. Are you interested, but won't be able to attend? Learn more about dairy beef at <http://dairybeef.ucdavis.edu>.

Coming Soon: "Clase del Ordeño" (Milking School)

The "Clase del Ordeño" (Milking School) will discuss udder anatomy, cow preparation and sanitation, milk letdown, milking equipment components, mastitis, the avoidance of antibiotic residues in bulk tank milk, and the role of the dairy industry in Idaho's economy. All classes are in Spanish and are from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Cost is \$15.00 per participant, and lunch will be provided.

- Caldwell, March 18 - UI Research & Extension Center
- Blackfoot, March 24 - Melina's Restaurant
- Preston, March 25 - Franklin County Extension Office
- Twin Falls, April 4 - Twin Falls County Extension Office

For more information, please contact Joe Dalton at 459-6365 or jdalton@uidaho.edu.

University of Idaho Dairy Cattle Research Update

Q: *What is the effect of thawing multiple 0.5mL semen straws simultaneously on conception rates in dairy cattle?*

A: Eight dairies (located in ID, WA, CA and OH), 4 with professional AI technicians (PAI) and 4 with herdsman-inseminators (HI) participated in the study. The average elapsed time from initial thaw to first, second, third, and fourth AI was 6.2, 7.8, 9.3, and 11 minutes, respectively, and was similar for PAI and HI. Conception rates for first, second, third, and fourth straws were: 46%, 44%, 34%, 42%, respectively for PAI, and 24%, 20%, 33%, 30%, respectively for HI. The average conception rate of straws (1 to 4) differed between PAI and HI (42 vs. 27 %, respectively).

Elapsed time and straw number had no effect on conception rate within inseminator group. The reason for the difference between PAI and HI in average conception rate is currently being studied. (Joe Dalton and Amin Ahmadzadeh, 2002)

Take home message

Careful inseminators may thaw four straws simultaneously without compromising conception rates.

Tips for Success

- Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for thaw time and procedure.
- Thaw only as many straws as can be deposited in cattle within 10 to 12 minutes.
- Do not allow straws to touch in the thaw bath.
- Maintain thermal stability of the straw from thawing to deposition in the cow.
- Practice good hygiene during artificial insemination.
- Maintain accurate AI records, including the technician responsible for the breeding.

Recent presentations

The following is a list of recent presentations I've made to dairy producers, veterinarians, consultants, and allied industry. If you are interested in a copy of a presentation, please contact Joe Dalton at 459-6365 or jdalton@uidaho.edu.

- ◆ "Western Dairy Trends." Invited speaker to the DHI-Provo 47th annual Herd Management Conference and Workshop, Reno, NV, November 2002.
- ◆ "Reproductive trends in U.S. dairy herds and strategies to enhance performance." World Wide Sires, Ltd., and World Wide Sires-Polska invited speaker. Szczecin, Poland, November 2002.
- ◆ "Strategies to enhance the reproductive performance of high producing cattle." World Wide Sires, Ltd., and MTS SPOL S.R.O. invited speaker. Nepalice and Rokytnice, Czech Republic, November 2002.
- ◆ "Mastitis in dairy cattle," and "Strategies to enhance the reproductive performance of high producing cattle," World Wide Sires, Ltd., and Slovenske Biologicke Sluzby invited speaker. Nitra, Slovakia, November 2002.
- ◆ "Strategies to maximize the reproductive performance of high producing cattle." World Wide Sires, Ltd., and Holstein Genetika KFT invited speaker. Keszythely and Debrecen, Hungary, November 2002.
- ◆ "Troubleshooting reproductive problems: Where to begin and what to expect." Invited speaker to the 5th Annual Intermountain Nutrition Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, January 2003.
- ◆ "Milk Urea Nitrogen." Invited speaker to the Payette Valley DHIA Annual Meeting, Fruitland, ID, February 2003.

Dairy Update is compiled by Joseph C. Dalton, Asst. Professor and Extension Dairy Specialist for the University of Idaho Department of Animal and Veterinary Science. For more information, contact Dr. Dalton at the Caldwell Research and Extension Center, 16952 S. Tenth Avenue, Caldwell, ID 83607, (208) 459-6365, jdalton@uidaho.edu.



Extension Dairy Specialist

The University of Idaho provides equal opportunity in education and employment on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, age, disability, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran, as required by state and federal laws. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, those requesting reasonable accommodations need to contact Joe Dalton by at least one week prior to the event at 16952 S. Tenth Avenue, Caldwell, or call 459-6365.