



Autumn 2004

Dairy Cattle Research Update

Q: Is there a fertility advantage following uterine horn insemination?

A #1: Six professional technicians participated in the study. Treatments included: 1) deposition of semen in the uterine body, and 2) deposition of half the inseminate beyond the curvature in each uterine horn. Nearly 3,500 inseminations from 61 herds were performed during the two-year trial. There was an effect of site of insemination and inseminator on conception rate, with evidence of either an increase, decrease, or no effect of uterine horn insemination on conception rate for individual inseminators. The improvement in conception rate following uterine horn insemination was most evident in herds with the lowest conception rate following uterine body insemination. (*Diskin et al., 2004. Teagasc, Ireland, and Michigan State University*)

A #2: Lactating Holstein cows (n = 833) from three farms were randomly assigned to receive AI in either: 1) the uterine body, or 2) beyond the curvature of the uterine horns by splitting the straw between both horns. Technicians from each farm received training in uterine horn insemination prior to the start of the study. Cows received AI following a detected estrus or following Ovsynch (GnRH – 7d – PGF – 2d – GnRH – 16 h - AI). The conception rate was greater in the uterine horn group compared to the uterine body (50 vs. 35%). There was no effect of parity or days in milk on conception rate. The conception rate was similar between AI following detected estrus and AI following Ovsynch. All farms had increases in conception rates in cows inseminated in the uterine horns. (*Pursley, 2004. Michigan State University*)

Take home message

The results indicate:

- (Study 1) The effect of uterine horn insemination is not uniform and is inseminator dependent, and
- (Study 2) the conception rate was greater in the uterine horn group compared to the uterine body.

The published research results are inconclusive. To date, four studies have shown a fertility advantage following uterine horn insemination, while four studies have shown no difference between uterine horn and uterine body inseminations.

- A possible explanation for the positive effect of uterine horn inseminations in some studies may be related to the minimization or elimination of cervical semen deposition.
- AI technicians should focus on eliminating cervical semen deposition, as the uterine horn vs. uterine body debate may be overshadowing the known detrimental effect of cervical insemination.

DHI Computing Service: 50th Anniversary

Coming Events

United Dairymen of Idaho Annual Meeting, Red Lion Hotel, Pocatello, ID, November 2-3. For more information: 208-327-7050.

DHI-Provo 50th Annual Herd Management Conference, Provo, UT, November 3-5. For more information: 1-800-453-9400 or www.dhiprovo.com.

Expo Leche 2004 and V World Dairy Congress, Hyatt Hotel Regency, Acapulco, Mexico, November 3-5. For more information please e-mail: hoards@prodigy.net.mx.

Idaho Dairymen's Association producer meetings featuring the Idaho State Department of Agriculture "What inspectors look for relative to your nutrient management plan," Idaho Power "Stray voltage," Idaho water issues, and a legislative update. Idaho Falls, December 7; Twin Falls, December 8; Nampa, December 9. Specific locations and times to be announced later. For more information: 208-736-1953.

Dr. Bliss Crandall founded DHI-Computing Service on July 1, 1954, in Logan, Utah. Considered "the father of computerized dairy records," Dr. Crandall's work providing data processing and statistical services to the dairy industry was recognized by the National Dairy Shrine as he was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 1980. DHI-Computing Service now has three divisions, including Financial Processing Systems, Health Processing Systems, and DHI-Provo. DHI-Provo continues to serve more than 2,700 herds in 28 states, as well as Mexico, Chile, and Colombia

Learn to communicate with Hispanic employees

The University of Idaho is collaborating with the College of Southern Idaho (CSI) to teach "Survival Spanish." The Spanish class is for dairy managers and other dairy personnel. University of Idaho Extension Dairy Specialist, Mireille Chahine, and CSI instructor, Lupe Cisneros, will teach the class. The class will be held Jan. 18 to Feb. 8, on Tuesday evenings, from 6 to 8 PM, in the Shields Building, room 109 (CSI campus, Twin Falls, Idaho). The cost of the class will be \$55. For more information please contact Mireille Chahine, 208-736-3600, mchahine@uidaho.edu, or Sylvia Jensen, 208-732-6290, SJensen@csi.edu.

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