

DAIRY *Update*



Spring 2004

UI Students Receive Platinum Honors at Dairy Challenge

A University of Idaho team won the top ranking during this year's North American Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge (NAIDC). Hosted by Penn State University, the 3rd Annual NAIDC was held on April 2-3, 2004, in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Twenty-five teams from 23 universities participated this year. The Dairy Challenge tests students' knowledge in dairy management by requiring teams to analyze all phases of a specific dairy farm and present recommendations for improvement to a panel of judges.

This event was created to encourage the development of future dairy industry leaders and is sponsored by more than fifty allied dairy companies and industry. United Dairymen of Idaho co-sponsored the Dairy Challenge and helped the Animal and Veterinary Science Department underwrite the UI team.

Teams were divided into three brackets and awards were separated into Platinum, Gold, and Silver categories with one team receiving 1st place platinum and 1 team receiving the runner up platinum in each bracket. The UI team of Stacey Odette (Battle Mountain, NV), Peter Kasper (Melba, ID), Lynn Godfrey (Fielding, UT), and Mike Vander Pol (Wendell, ID) won a first-place platinum award for their efforts. All are UI seniors who will graduate this spring with dairy science degrees. Each UI winner received a \$200 scholarship. In addition to UI, the winners of the other two brackets were the University of Wisconsin – Madison and Virginia Tech.

For more information please contact Dr. Amin Ahmadzadeh at 208-885-7409 or amin@uidaho.edu.

“The contest was a comprehensive and challenging event. The teams were given a case study, tour of facility, interview with the dairy herd manager and the owner, and then access to the dairy’s records,” according to Dr. Amin Ahmadzadeh, the UI team’s faculty advisor. “Subsequently, each team had six hours to evaluate the dairy farm, identify the strengths and weaknesses, and provide potential solutions with the economic analysis for each recommendation. At the end of this period, each team made a 20-minute presentation to the herd owner and a panel of judges representing the allied dairy industry.”

UI Dairy Cattle Research Update

Q: *What is the effect of timed AI (with or without GnRH) 64 hours after prostaglandin on conception rates in lactating cattle enrolled in Ovsynch?*

A: Two commercial dairies utilizing daily lock up, tail chalk, and once daily AI participated in the study. Cows were not presynchronized prior to initiation of Ovsynch. All cows were administered GnRH on day -7 and received tail chalk daily (Figure 1). Cows detected in heat according to chalk removal (roughened tailhead hair) prior to day 0 received AI immediately. Cows not detected in heat by day 0 were administered prostaglandin (PG) and continued to receive tail chalk daily until 48 h after PG. All cows detected in heat prior to and including 48 h after PG received AI immediately and were considered treatment A (n = 46). Cows that were not detected in estrus and not inseminated by 48 h after PG were assigned randomly to one of three treatment groups:

- GnRH 48 h after PG and timed AI (TAI) 16 h later (B; n = 132)
- GnRH and TAI 64 h after PG (C; n = 127)
- TAI 64 h after PG (no GnRH) (D; n = 127)

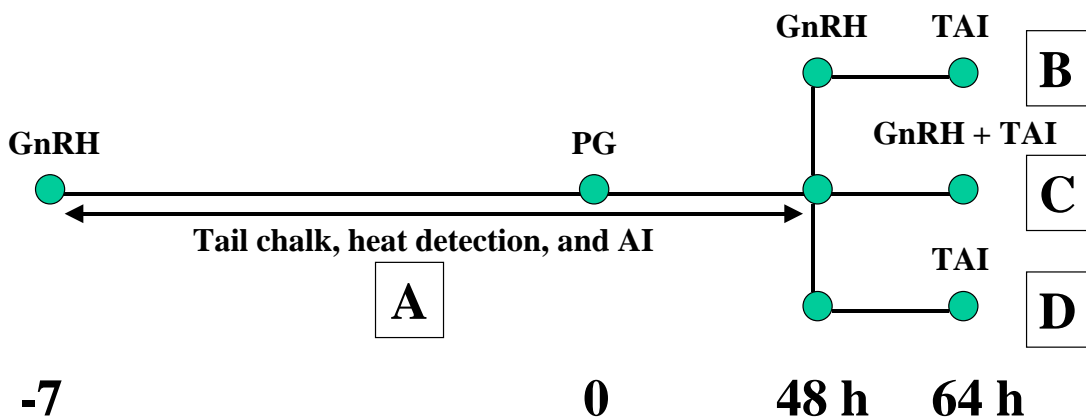


Figure 1. *Treatment protocol to determine the effect of timed AI (TAI) (with or without GnRH) 64 h after PG on conception rates in lactating cattle.*

Pregnancy was diagnosed 38-45 days after AI by palpation of uterine contents. Conception rates were 25.4%, 29.8%, 21.2%, and 16.5% for treatments A, B, C, and D, respectively (Figure 2).

Mean milk yield was 86.4, 87.1, 86.0, and 84.2 lb for treatments A, B, C, and D, respectively.

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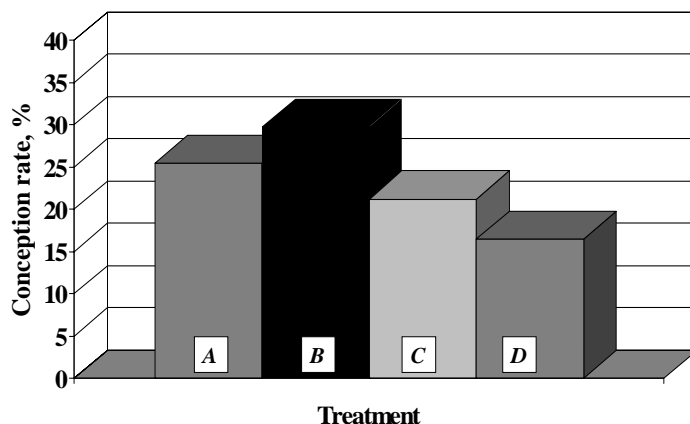


Figure 2. The effect of timed AI 64h after prostaglandin on conception rates.

Take home message

- ◆ Nearly 11% of all cattle enrolled exhibited spontaneous heat, received immediate AI, and achieved an acceptable conception rate (treatment A).
- ◆ Heat detection and AI should be considered in Ovsynch programs when cattle are not presynchronized.
- ◆ The conception rate was highest for treatment B (GnRH 48 h after PG and AI 16 h after GnRH).
- ◆ GnRH + Timed AI 64 h after PG (treatment C) resulted in a lower conception rate compared to GnRH 48 h after PG and AI 16 h after GnRH (treatment B).
- ◆ Timed AI (without GnRH) at 64 h after PG (treatment D) is not recommended.

How Long Will High Milk Prices Last?

Although the current outlook for 2004 looks good, historical data reveals that high prices do not last. What's your risk management strategy to guard against falling prices and ensure a profit for your business?

| Class III futures settlement price April 26, 2004 | | Class III 5-year average price (1999-2003) | |
|--|-------|---|-------|
| April 04 | 19.57 | April | 10.71 |
| May 04 | 19.50 | May | 11.00 |
| June 04 | 16.92 | June | 11.15 |
| July 04 | 15.80 | July | 12.16 |
| August 04 | 15.65 | August | 12.96 |
| September 04 | 14.95 | September | 13.43 |
| October 04 | 14.40 | October | 12.24 |
| November 04 | 13.45 | November | 10.60 |
| December 04 | 12.00 | December | 10.48 |

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.

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A cartoon illustration of a brown and white cow standing behind a wooden fence. The cow is looking towards the viewer. The fence is made of three horizontal rails and two vertical posts. The cow is positioned to the right of the word "Update" in the title.