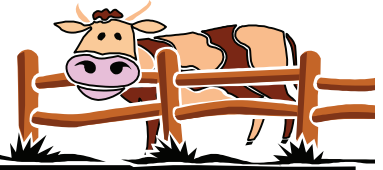


DAIRY *Update*



Spring 2006

Coming Events

American Society of Animal Science
Western Section Meeting, Logan,
UT, June 21-23. For more informa-
tion: www.asas.org/western06/

American Dairy Science Association-
American Society of Animal Science
Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, MN,
July 9-13. For more information:
<http://adsa.asas.org/meetings/2006/>

Internacional Conferencia Sobre Ga-
nado Lechero – CIGAL 2006, Gua-
dalajara, Jalisco, México, July 19-21.
For more information: www.cigal.biz

National Mastitis Council 2006 Re-
gional Meeting, Charlottetown,
Prince Edward Island, Canada, Au-
gust 9 -10. For more information:
www.nmconline.org/meetings.htm

Applied Reproductive Strategies in
Beef Cattle, St. Joseph, MO, August
30 -31. For more information:
<http://westcentral.unl.edu/beefrepro/>

Dr. Amin Ahmadzadeh receives Excellence in Teaching Award

The University of Idaho recognized Dr. Amin Ahma-
dzadeh, Animal and Veterinary Sciences department faculty mem-
ber, with the University's highest teaching honor recently, as he
received the Excellence in Teaching Award. Dr. Ahmadzadeh was
raised on a dairy farm in Iran, and was educated at Delaware Val-
ley College and Virginia Tech. Ahmadzadeh came to the Univer-
sity of Idaho in 2000 as an assistant professor, and recently re-
ceived a promotion to associate professor, with tenure. Ahma-
dzadeh has been integral in the resurgence of the dairy science pro-
gram at the University of Idaho, through innovative teaching, re-
search and mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students. Dr.
Ahmadzadeh coaches the UI Dairy Challenge Team, and helped to
re-establish the dairy judging team after a five-decade absence.

Coming Soon: "From Field to Fuel" Biodiesel Production Technology Workshop

A one-day, Biodiesel Production Technology workshop, to
be held at the Coeur d'Alene Resort on June 15, will focus on topics
such as growing and processing oil seeds, biodiesel production
practices and economics. Biodiesel is the fastest growing alternative
fuel – and oil seed production may fit into a diversified farm and
dairy business. Animal and Veterinary Science faculty member Dr.
Alex Hristov is scheduled to make a presentation on "Co-product
meal as animal feed."

For more information: www.biodieseleducation.org

New ... Dairy Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Program Starting in Idaho

Idaho's dairy producers collectively market about 150,000 cull cows annually (better known as "market" cows). When mixed with trimmings from fed beef cattle, market cow carcasses contribute to 43% of the beef consumed in the U.S. – which is marketed as more than just ground beef. Currently, half of this beef is sold as higher-value "whole muscle" cuts such as deli and fast-food roast beef, marinated steaks, Philly steaks, and fajitas.

Dairy and beef producers work hard to maximize their overall profit by producing high quality products. However, market cows are rarely viewed as a "product" or as an opportunity where quality or value can be improved. The most recent National Market Cow and Bull Quality Audit identified shortfalls in the quality and value of carcasses from market cows and bulls. Audit findings indicated that an average of \$69/head is lost due to several quality defects (see Table 1).

Table 1. Value lost from market cows and bulls (NMCBQA, 1999).

Item	Amount lost
Inadequate muscling	\$18.70
Trim loss (arthritic joints, bruises, birdshot, injection site lesions)	\$14.40
Excess external fat	\$10.17
Condemnations (cattle, carcass, offal items, etc.)	\$ 8.63
Yellow external fat	\$ 6.48
Hide value loss (brands, insects, etc.)	\$ 6.27
Antibiotic residue (handling/testing) and disabled cattle	\$ 1.48
Dark cutting muscle	\$ 1.41
Light weight carcasses	\$ 1.28
Total loss per head	\$68.82

Substantial opportunity exists within the dairy industry to improve the quality and value of market cows and their carcasses in order to return more profit to individuals and the industry. The Idaho Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Program was developed to help beef and dairy operations improve their ability to produce a high quality, safe, and wholesome product that meets consumers' demands. The foundation of Idaho's BQA Program involves educational programs for producers, including an opportunity for participants to become "BQA Certified."

Due to the significant contribution of Idaho's market dairy cows to the beef supply, an Idaho Dairy BQA Program is being developed to offer educational programs specifically for dairy operations (including owners, managers, and employees). Ultimately, this program will help dairies improve the value and quality of the market cows, market bulls, and bull calves they produce. A series of workshops in both English and Spanish will be offered throughout Idaho during 2006. For more information, or to sponsor one of these educational events, contact the Idaho BQA Program at 208-459-6365 or beef@uidaho.edu

Contributed by Jason Ahola, PhD, University of Idaho Extension Beef Specialist

New! For Employees ...

The Transition Period and Fresh Cow Management

Cow fertility is directly related to health during the early postpartum period. Factors negatively influencing the resumption of cyclicity include drastic changes in body condition during the dry period and early postpartum, milk fever, ketosis, displaced abomasum, ruminal acidosis, retained placenta, metritis, ovarian cysts, and lameness. It is imperative for producers to implement effective transition cow management programs to prevent these problems, and monitor fresh cows daily for up to 10 days after calving. Fresh cow monitoring must be done by trained personnel and should include, **at a minimum**, 1) daily rectal temperatures, 2) visual observation of each cow's disposition (including whether or not she's eating), 3) evaluation of uterine discharge, and 4) when necessary, using a stethoscope to check for a right or left displaced abomasum (RDA or LDA). Should problems occur, cows must be treated as quickly as possible. Typically, cows that experience a postpartum problem have reduced conception rates.

Nuevo! Para los empleados ...

El Periodo de Transición y Administración de las Vacas "Frescas"

La fertilidad de las vacas está relacionada directamente con la salud durante el período inmediato posterior al parto. Los factores que influyen negativamente el restablecimiento de la ciclicidad ovárica incluyen cambios drásticos en la condición corporal durante el período seco y las primeras etapas *postpartum*, fiebre de leche, cetosis, desplazamiento del abomaso, acidosis ruminal, retención placentaria, metritis, ovarios quísticos, y problemas locomotores. Es imperativo que los ganaderos implementen programas efectivos de manejo para las vacas en transición, con el fin de evitar estos problemas, y supervisar y registrar ("monitorear") todos los días a las vacas recién paridas durante los primeros 10 días *postpartum*. Este monitoreo de las vacas "frescas" debe estar a cargo del personal entrenado y debe incluir como **mínimo**: 1) temperatura rectal diaria, 2) observación de la disposición de cada vaca (incluyendo si come o no), 3) evaluación de las descargas uterinas, y 4) cuando sea necesario, utilizar un estetoscopio para detectar el desplazamiento del abomaso hacia la derecha o hacia la izquierda (RDA o LDA por sus siglas en Inglés, respectivamente). En caso de problemas, es necesario tratar a las vacas lo antes posible. Por lo general, las vacas con problemas *postpartum* presentan menores tasas de concepción.

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

Cooperative Extension System
U.S. Department of Agriculture
University of Idaho
16952 S. Tenth Avenue
Caldwell, ID 83607

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



DAIRY *Update*

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.