

DAIRY *Update*



Summer 2004

University of Idaho Faculty Receive Honors

Amin Ahmadzadeh receives Excellence in Teaching Award

Dr. Amin Ahmadzadeh recently received the 2003-2004 R.M.Wade Excellence in Teaching Award at the University of Idaho's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences year-end banquet. Dr. Ahmadzadeh is in charge of the UI undergraduate dairy program in the Animal and Veterinary Science Department. Dr. Ahmadzadeh also conducts research in reproductive physiology, and has successfully advised three graduate students to completion of Master's degrees.

Scott Jensen and Joe Dalton receive Diversity Award

Scott Jensen, Owyhee County Extension Educator, and Dr. Joe Dalton, Extension Dairy Specialist, recently received the University of Idaho Extension Diversity Award for their Spanish language Milker's School (Clase del Ordeño). In recent years, the program has been offered in Caldwell, Twin Falls, Preston, and Blackfoot. Topics covered include: udder anatomy, milk letdown, cow preparation and sanitation, mastitis, and avoidance of antibiotic residues in milk.

"Dairybeef: Maximizing Quality and Profits" garners national award

The "Dairybeef: Maximizing Quality and Profits" distance education program has received the American Distance Education Consortium's Excellence in Distance Education-Honorable Mention Award for 2004. Dr. Dale Moore, University of California, Davis, heads the 7-western state group, which includes Dr. Joe Dalton, University of Idaho Extension Dairy Specialist. Dean Falk, former UI Extension Dairy Specialist, preceded Dr. Dalton on this project. Today, Dr. Dalton continues to be involved in the original project that received the award, and also the development and translation of key modules for use by Spanish-speaking dairy employees. For more information: (<http://dairybeef.ucdavis.edu>)

Dairy Cattle Research Update

Q: Does alternating the time of the second GnRH and AI in cattle enrolled in the Presynch+Ovsynch protocol affect conception rates?

A: When Ovsynch is initiated between days 5 to 13 of the estrous cycle, cows have greater conception rates compared to when Ovsynch is initiated at a random stage of the cycle. “Presynchronization” with two injections of prostaglandin 14 days apart is a practical method to target the initiation of Ovsynch during the most favorable stage of the estrous cycle. The optimal time to administer GnRH and AI to cattle enrolled in Presynch+Ovsynch continues to be the subject of intense debate, especially in herds utilizing once-daily lock-up and AI. Two Kansas dairies participated in the study. A total of 715 lactating cattle were enrolled in the Presynch+Ovsynch protocol, with 666 cows comprising the final data set. The treatment protocol is shown in Figure 1. Presynchronization (Presynch) was achieved by two injections of prostaglandin (PG) administered 14 days apart, with the second PG injection given 12 days before initiation of the Ovsynch protocol on day -7. Cows in treatment A received the second GnRH and TAI 48 h after PG administration. Cows in treatment B received the second GnRH 48 h after PG administration, with TAI 24 h after GnRH administration. Cows in treatment C received the second GnRH and TAI 72 h after PG.

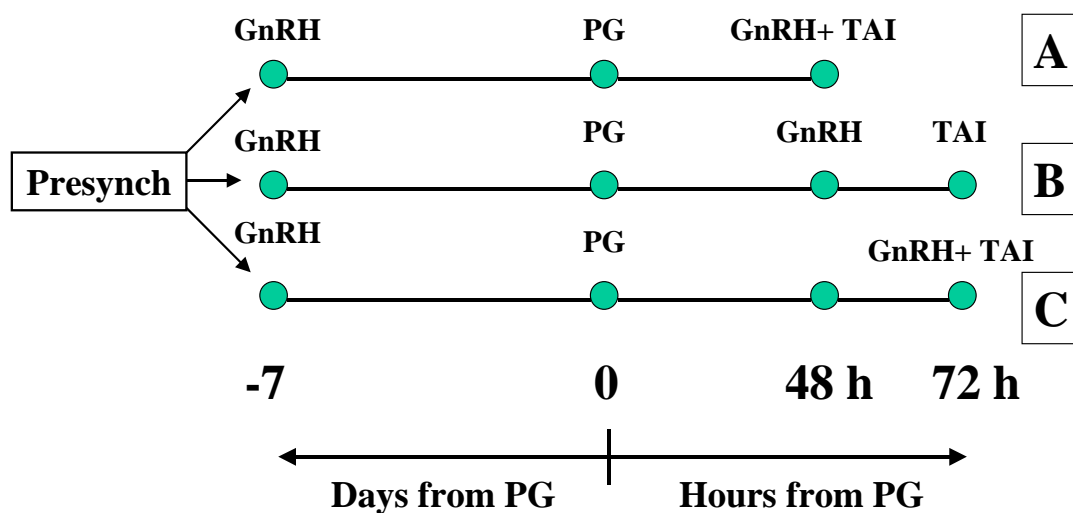


Figure 1. Treatment protocol to determine the effect of altering the time of the second GnRH and timed AI (TAI) in cattle enrolled in the Presynch+Ovsynch protocol on conception rates. All cows received two injections of prostaglandin (PG) 14 days apart (Presynch), with the second injection given 12 days before initiation of Ovsynch.

In dairy cattle enrolled in Presynch+Ovsynch, the greatest conception rates were achieved following administration of the second GnRH and TAI 72 h after PG (treatment C). Conception rates were 23, 29, and 35% for treatments A, B and C, respectively (Figure 2).

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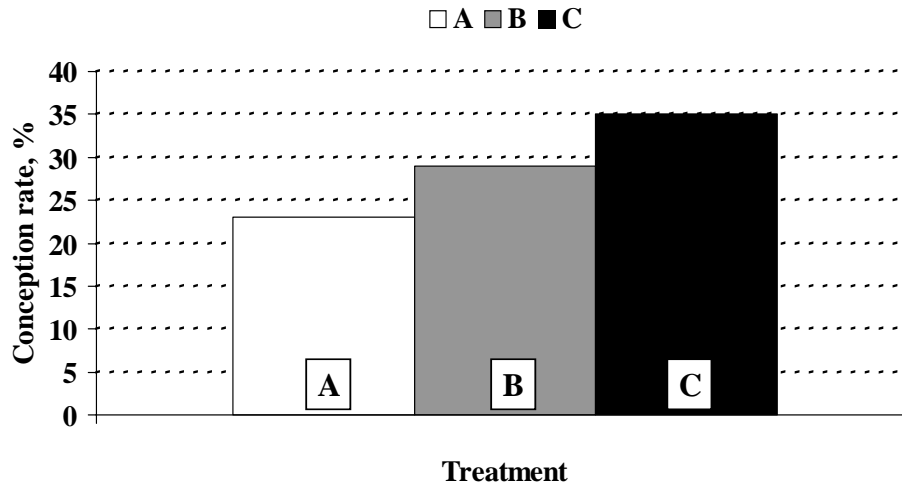


Figure 2. In presynchronized cattle enrolled in Ovsynch, the greatest conception rates were achieved following administration of the second GnRH and TAI 72 h after PG (treatment C).

Take home message

- ◆ The highest conception rate was achieved following treatment C (GnRH+TAI 72 h after PG).
- ◆ Compared to treatment B, treatment C provides time and labor savings because cattle receive the second GnRH and TAI on the same day.
- ◆ Treatment C allows all injections and inseminations to occur at the same time of the day (all a.m. or all p.m.).

Reference: Portaluppi, M.A., and J.S. Stevenson. 2003. Variations in the Ovsynch protocol alter pregnancy rates in lactating dairy cows. In: Dairy Day 2003 Report of Progress 919, pp. 54-56.

If you want more information on this research, please see <http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/library/lvstk2/SRP919.pdf>

Air Quality Consent Agreement

The Ag Air Coalition has negotiated a Consent Agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Consent Agreement offers some producers protection from liability from lawsuits and regulatory action for past air emissions. This protection would continue through a scientific data collection period and until effective air emission regulations are developed. The producers would then have a reasonable amount of time to comply with the new regulations. Producers would be eligible to participate in the Consent Agreement by paying a fee based on herd size. For dairies, the maximum fee is expected to be \$2,000 to \$3,000. For more information: www.nmpf.org/files/Air_Emissions_Statement_060304.doc

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Coming Events

American Dairy Science Association –American Society of Animal Science-Poultry Science Association
Joint Annual Meeting, St. Louis, Missouri, July 25-29. For more information: www.fass.org/2004/

National Association of Animal Breeders 20th Biennial Technical Conference on Artificial Insemination
and Reproduction, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, September 17-18. For more information:
www.naab-css.org/about/events.html