

Topic of the Month Tweaking your sync protocols

Newsletter of White Oak Veterinary Clinic, PC

Many producers make use of injections or timed AI protocols to bring cows into heat or get them bred. These practices make use of a prostaglandin drug such as Lutalyse or Estrumate to force an ovarian structure called a corpus luteum to regress and allow a cow to ovulate.

Recent research has indicated that not all cows respond to the standard dosing of prostaglandin. Revisions of some tried and true sync protocols have suggested adding a second dose of prostaglandin 12-24 hours after the first dose. This practice seems to cause some cows to regress their CLs that might not have done so otherwise. In turn, this causes these cows to respond to the protocol as intended, resulting in an increase in conception.

So, should you tweak your protocols? Definitely, maybe. Really, it depends. How is your conception? Do the cows respond to the current sync protocols as intended? Do you have problem breeders or cows that don't ever seem to show heat?

The CL secretes the hormone progesterone and as long as it is round, it dominates. Being able to regress the CL reliably opens the door for increasing fertility. This is another tool in our toolbox for improving conception. Ask about it at your next herd check.

Commodity Futures Prices

As of November 30, 2021

Corn	\$5.67/bu
Soybean Meal	\$348.80/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$18.01/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$135.88/cwt

Practice News

- Our condolences to the family of Larry Frazier. Larry was a long-time employee at White Oak who passed away in November. Please keep Larry and his family in your thoughts and prayers.
- Our practice maintains a selection of equipment such as stomach pumps, hip lifts, a large castration bander, and gas dehorners for daily rental. Call the office to check availability.
- We have purchased a small ruminant probe for our electroejaculator and will now offer breeding soundness exams for rams and bucks.
- The *Farm, Field, and Garden* insert in the *Daily American* newspaper has been discontinued effective immediately. Both Dr. Bill Croushore and Dr. Dan Zawisza had been monthly columnists for this paper.

Mark Your Calendar

- Registration is now open for the 2022 Pennsylvania Dairy Summit to be held February 2-3, 2022 in Lancaster. Keynote speakers have been announced and include Elle Purrier St. Pierre, a dairy farmer turned Olympian; Dr. Marin Bozic, discussing FMMO reform; Dale and Clay Hemminger discussing managing a family business with multiple enterprises including their dairy; and Ed Herr, Chairman and CEO of Herr Foods Incorporated, discussing his strategy and vision as he cultivates the culture and drives the growth of his business. You can register at padairysummit.org.
- The 106th Pennsylvania Farm Show will be held January 8-15, 2022. If you are planning to take animals to the farm show, please check requirements and call the office to schedule an appointment for vet inspection.