

Topic of the Month

5 Day CIDR Synch

I have had discussions with several of my herds lately regarding ways to get stubborn heifers bred. It struck me that following on the heels of our producer meeting, this would be a good topic because heifer management and reproduction is an area where substantial gains can often be made with minimal input.

Of course, the ideal scenario is to raise nice heifers that come in to heat around a year old and settle first service. But when time is tight and field work calls, heat detection can slip. And one thing that makes me very nervous for dairies is calving in old heifers. They just tend to be trainwrecks.

That's where this protocol comes in. It has become my favorite heifer breeding protocol because it is simple, straightforward, and effective. I refer to it as 5 day CIDR synch, but it may appear in your repro catalog under a name like 5 day CoSynch with CIDR or something similar. There are a few variations on it, but the basic protocol is to insert a CIDR and treat with GnRH, pull the CIDR and give a prostaglandin injection on Day 5, and then (and this is where most of the variation lies) treat again with GnRH and breed on Day 8.

In our experience, the protocol has been tremendously successful. Note that this is a heifer protocol. There is a similar protocol for cows but it involves an extra injection. It would be well worth discussing this with your herd vet, especially if you feel like your heifer breeding could use a boost.

Commodity Futures

Prices

As of February 28, 2018

Corn	\$3.74/bu
Soybean Meal	\$394.20/ton
Milk	\$14.02/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$127.50/cwt

Practice News

- Look for a reminder mailing this month regarding spring deworming and vaccination. If you don't receive one, strike up a conversation at your next herd check about appropriate deworming protocols and current vaccination practices.

In The News

- Zoetis has developed the first complete Holstein reference genome, according to an article from Dairy Business. While the first cattle genome was completed in 2009 from a Montana Hereford cow named L1 Dominette 01449, there are significant genetic differences even among cattle breeds. This complete genome for a dairy breed should allow for assessment of genetic risk factors for diseases such as lameness and mastitis, which are so costly to dairy operations.
- More than a year into the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) rules, Michigan State University researchers are conducting a survey to learn how these rules have affected management and animal health. The survey is open until April. Participation is voluntary and confidential. The goal is to help extension professionals design educational programs to help producers. The survey is expected to take 10-15 minutes and can be accessed online at

<https://www.dairyherd.com/article/msu-tell-us-about-impact-vfd-rules-your-herd>.

Upcoming Events

- The Pennsylvania Holstein Convention is taking place from March 1-3 in Lancaster.