

Topic of the Month Timing

Newsletter of White Oak Veterinary Clinic, PC

Recently, I came across a 2020 study by B.O. Omontese et al. in the *Journal of Dairy Science* called *Association between hoof lesions and fertility in lactating Jersey cows*. The study design looked at lameness in cows around day 20 post-calving and followed them through lactation on several parameters.

The study investigated a variety of data including the type of hoof lesion, development of new hoof lesions, various fertility statistics, and pregnancy loss.

Predictably, cows with hoof lesions at day 20 were less likely to be cycling and had a corresponding longer interval to first service. Less obvious were the associations with specific types of hoof lesions. Cows with infectious hoof lesions at day 20 showed reduced first service conception. Cows with sole hemorrhage were more likely to lose a pregnancy between initial diagnosis at day 32 and recheck at day 64. Cows were re-examined at day 120 post-calving and development of new hoof lesions did not show any of these associations.

The data and analysis are fascinating, but the authors point to one broad finding- hoof disease in early lactation has a major impact on fertility.

Hoof trimming is a standard expense on most farms. Why not get the most for your dollar by focusing on timing it to prevent or manage early lactation hoof disease?

Commodity Futures Prices

As of February 28, 2022

Corn	\$6.97/bu
Soybean Meal	\$454.90/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$22.05/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$140.50/cwt

Practice News

- It's not too early to start thinking about breeding soundness exams for your bulls. Exams are a point in time test of breeding capability and are best conducted 1-2 months before the breeding season to allow for the purchase of a replacement bull if needed.
- In an effort to better serve our clients utilizing Hispanic labor, Dr. Zawisza has been studying Spanish. He will be engaging your Spanish-speaking employees in conversation to increase fluency and become a resource in employee management.
- We have a selection of calf jackets available for purchase in sizes for Jersey and Holstein calves.

New Grants Announced

- The Center for Dairy Excellence has announced a new round of Dairy Excellence Grants. They will match 50% of an approved project up to a maximum matching amount of \$5,000. The application period is March 1-31. View details at centerfordairyexcellence.org.

Generics Available

Two new generic drugs have been released recently. Macrosyn and Increxxa are both generic formulations of tulathromycin, the active ingredient in Draxxin.

DEADLINE EXTENDED

The USDA has extended the deadline to apply for Dairy Margin Coverage and Supplemental Dairy Margin Coverage to March 25, 2022.

Scholarship Opportunity

The National Dairy Promotion and Research Board is accepting applications for scholarships given to undergraduate college students enrolled in programs emphasizing dairy. There are up to eleven \$2,500 scholarships and one \$3,500 scholarship available. The deadline to apply is May 6, 2022. Find out more at <https://www.usdairy.com/about-us/dmi/scholarship>