

Newsletter of White Oak Veterinary Clinic, PC

Topic of the Month

Abracadabra! The Short Cycle Trick

I learned a trick at a recent meeting to keep a nice, tight calving window for beef heifers (although I think variations would also work for dairy). It makes use of the fact that Lutalyse only works on a mature corpus luteum which appears around day 7 after heat and maintains a bovine pregnancy up until about day 90.

The trick is to put heifers in with your bulls (at a normal ratio). You can expect 25% of them to get bred right away assuming they are cycling normally. On day 5, give every heifer a Lutalyse injection. For the heifers that did not get bred initially, this should bring them into heat. For the heifers that did get bred, the most they could be is 5 days bred and will not have a mature CL that the Lutalyse would regress and cause an abortion.

By day 9, every heifer has completed a cycle. By day 30, every heifer has been with the bulls for two cycles. Pull the bulls on day 30.

This is a very aggressive breeding strategy, but the science makes sense. It is certainly not for every herd, and I would not recommend it as a blanket strategy. Additionally, you can not be late with those shots or you will start dumping pregnancies.

Another concern is that you need to watch that the heifers are getting bred. Typically, you would want to keep them in a smaller area for the first week to make sure groups of heifers are not getting missed. Young bulls sometimes fixate on one or a few heifers, whereas mature bulls don't. Either way, you need to watch that they're getting the job done.

Commodity Futures Prices

As of April 29, 2022

Corn (May)	\$8.18/bu
Soybean Meal (May)	\$440.50/ton
Milk (Class III)	\$24.39/cwt
Beef (Live cattle)	\$141.90/cwt

News from the Department of Agriculture

- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been in the news and cases have now been detected in PA. If you are experiencing increased illness or death in your backyard poultry flock, you can contact the PA DOA 24/7 on-call line at 717-772-2852, option 1. They may collect samples for HPAI surveillance.
- Be sure to plan ahead regarding tagging for upcoming fairs and shows. Some 840 tags will be on backorder due to a plastic shortage, so be sure that you don't wait until the last minute.
- Also related to 840 tags, be aware that there are both RFID 840 tags and flat 840 tags that do not have the button. While the flat tags are acceptable identification for some purposes, the RFID 840 tags are required identification for fairs and shows.

A Word of Thanks

- A big thank you to our clients. Recently, we've had a number of veterinary students rotate through our practice and they have all been excellent. Nevertheless, we do appreciate you allowing us to teach them in your herds. Repetition and practice is key to developing their skills and competence.

Scholarship Opportunity Deadline

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>