

# **15th ANNUAL NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL DAIRY CONFERENCE**



## **“Reproductive Issues Facing Today’s Dairy Farms”**

**Featured Speaker - Dr. Jeffrey S. Stevenson**



**February 19, 2014**

**Buckeye Event Center  
Dalton, Ohio**

**Presented by the Dairy Veterinarians of the  
Killbuck Valley Veterinary Medical Association**





## **Killbuck Valley Veterinary Medical Association**

*President: William Yost, D.V.M.*

*Treasurer: Carlton Schlatter, D.V.M.*

The Killbuck Valley Veterinary Medical Association is an association of veterinarians in private practice, teaching, research, and industry in the geographic area surrounding the path of Killbuck Creek. The association is affiliated with the Ohio Veterinary Medical Association at the state level, and includes veterinarians primarily in OVMA District 8; we also include some veterinarians from District 7 to the north and District 4 to the west.

The purposes of the Killbuck Valley VMA are to provide professional continuing education to our membership, provide a conduit for the membership to communicate with the OVMA, and provide public service as needed to our geographic area and local communities as our professional expertise allows.

Our annual dairy producer meeting is made possible with the generous support of local businesses and is a public service of our group, recognizing the importance of the dairy industry in our local geographic area as well as the state of Ohio in general. By our continued support of this type of educational meeting for Ohio dairy industry personnel, we of the KVVMA are striving to maintain and expand this important industry, insure the continued production of dairy products of the highest quality, and improve and protect the well-being of the dairy cow herself.

We welcome you to our 2014 meeting. We hope you find the meeting educational and stimulating.

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**February 19, 2014**  
**Buckeye Event Center**  
**Dalton, Ohio**

## **“Reproductive Issues Facing Today’s Dairy Farms”**

### **SCHEDULE**

- 9:00 - 9:55 AM:** Registration, Continental Breakfast and Visit with Exhibitors
- 9:55 - 10:00 AM:** Welcome and Opening Remarks  
*Dr. William Yost - KVVMA President*
- 10:00 - 10:45 AM:** Featured Speaker – Dr. Stevenson  
*Reproductive Anatomy and Activity Monitoring in Heat-Detection Programs*
- 10:45 - 11:15 AM:** Break and Visit with Exhibitors
- 11:15 - 12:00 PM:** Featured Speaker – Dr. Stevenson  
*Update on Timed AI Programs*
- 12:00 - 1:15 PM:** Lunch (provided) and Visit with Exhibitors
- 1:15 - 1:30 PM:** *Updates on Dairy Promotion, Legislation & Regulatory Issues*  
– Scott Higgins, CEO, ADA Mideast and ODPA
- 1:30 - 2:15 PM:** Dairy Farmer Panel: *How We Achieve Reproductive Success*
- 2:15 - 2:45 PM:** Break and Visit with Exhibitors
- 2:45 - 3:30 PM:** Featured Speaker – Dr. Stevenson  
*Removing Bottlenecks that Limit Pregnancy Rates*
- 3:30 PM:** Door Prizes (*must be present to win*)  
Adjourn



Dr. Jeffrey S. Stevenson

## **FEATURED SPEAKER**

Dr. Stevenson was born in Salt Lake City and attended Utah State University, graduating with a B.S. in Dairy Science in 1975. He then entered graduate school at Michigan State University and received his M.S. in Dairy Science in 1977. In 1980, he received his Ph.D in Animal Physiology from North Carolina State University. He was then appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry at Kansas State University. By 1992, Dr. Stevenson was promoted to Professor, and his current responsibilities include teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, as well as being the faculty coordinator for the Kansas Artificial Breeding Service Unit (KABSU).

Dr. Stevenson's research interests include synchronization of estrus and ovulation in dairy and beef cattle and early embryo survival in cattle. He has served on the editorial boards of *Journal of Dairy Science*, *Journal of Animal Science*, and *Animal Reproductive Science*. He has received numerous awards and recognition for his research in dairy reproduction, authored or coauthored numerous journal articles, papers, and book chapters, and has been a contributing author for the Artificial Breeding column in *Hoard's Dairyman* since June 1992.

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Please take time to visit with those sponsors  
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The veterinarians of the Killbuck Valley Veterinary Medical Association would like  
to thank all of our sponsors for their continued support of this educational  
effort for the dairy industry. A strong dairy industry is a tremendous asset  
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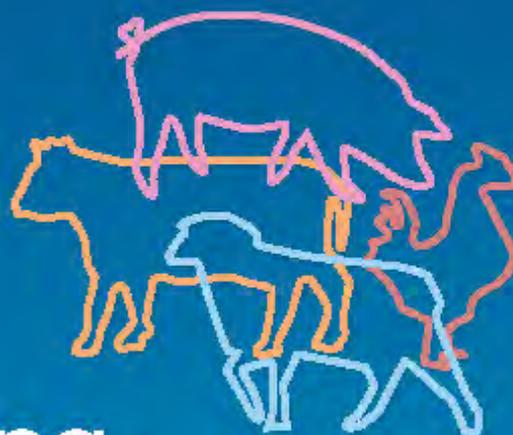


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<sup>1</sup>Ragan VE. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) brucellosis eradication program in the United States. USDA APHIS, Veterinary Services. Available at: [http://www.fass.org/fasscience/viewarticle.asp?article\\_id=367](http://www.fass.org/fasscience/viewarticle.asp?article_id=367). Accessed Sept. 20, 2011.

<sup>2</sup>USDA APHIS. Brucellosis-Affected Herds, 2010-2011. Available at: [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/animal\\_diseases/brucellosis](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/brucellosis). Under "Brucellosis Disease Information," click on "Accumulated 12-Month Herd Infection Rate." Then, download status-by-st.xls. Accessed Sept. 20, 2011.

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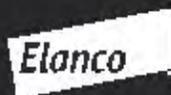
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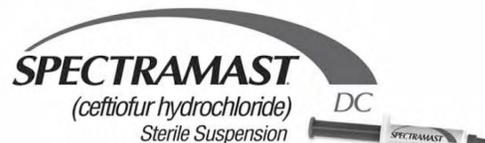


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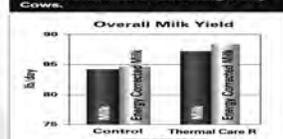
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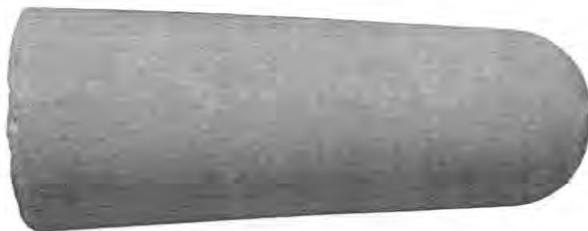
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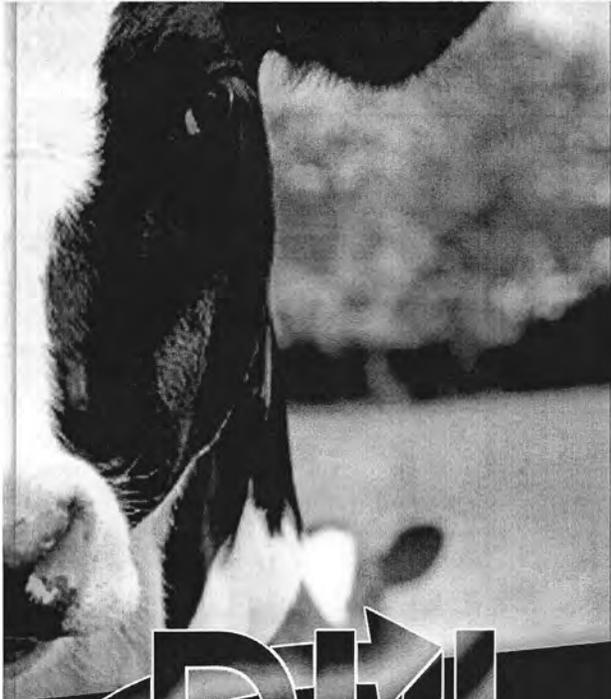
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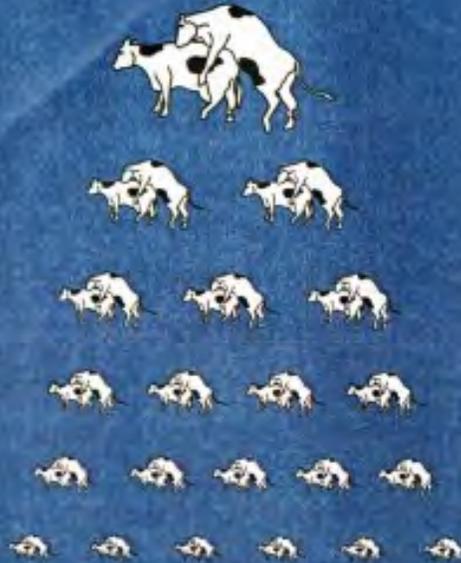
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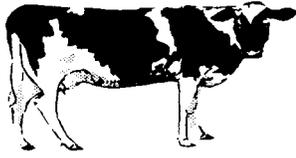
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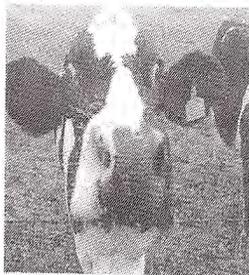
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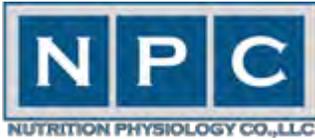
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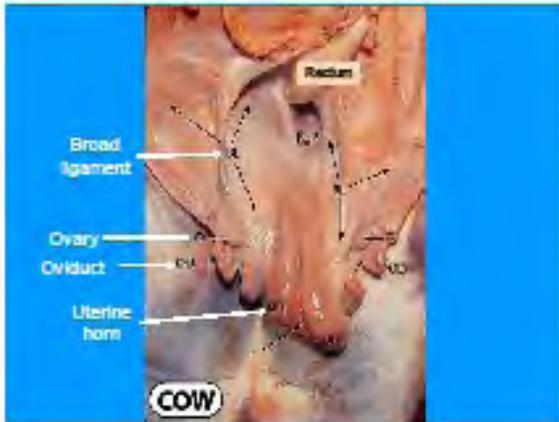


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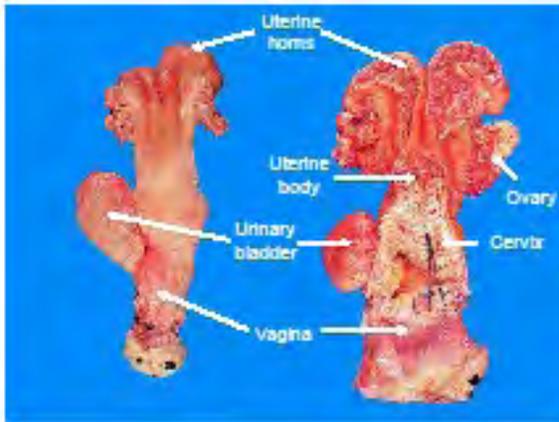
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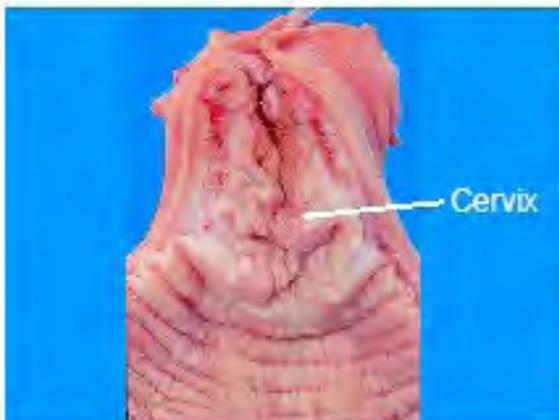
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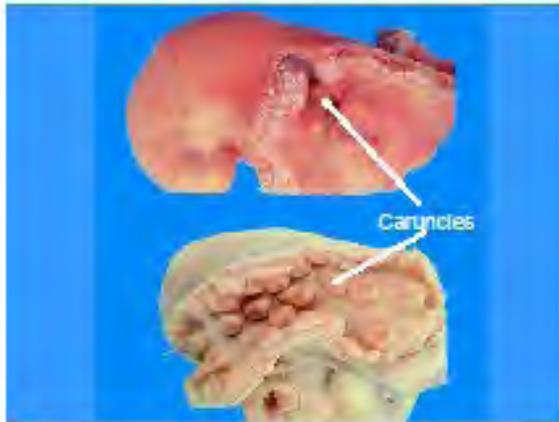
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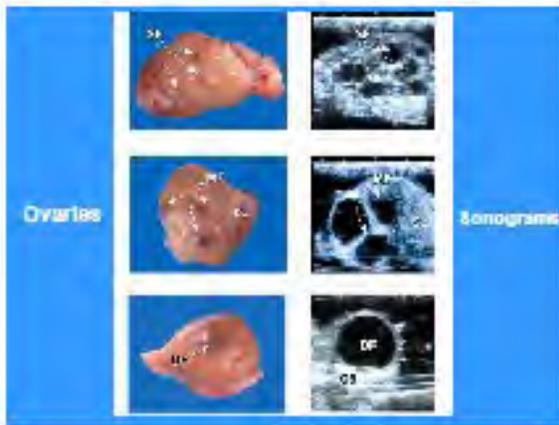
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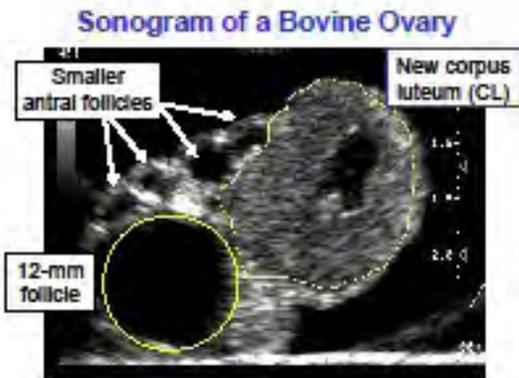
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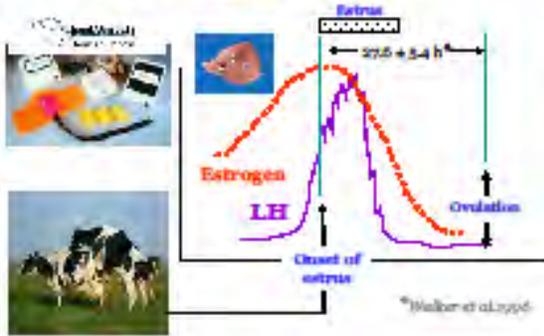
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### Timing of Ovulation



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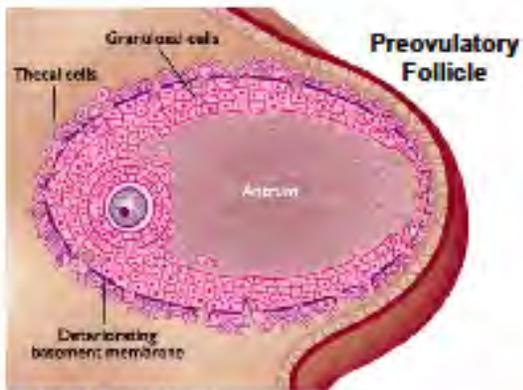
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Senger, Figure 8-2

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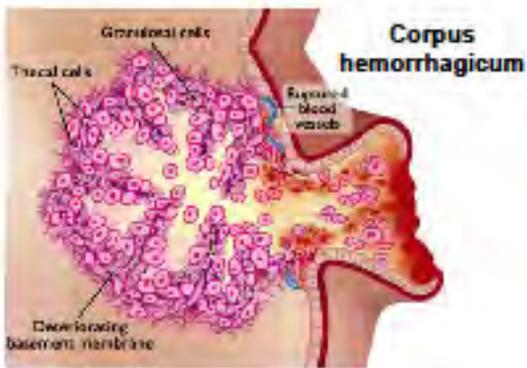
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Senger, Figure 8-2

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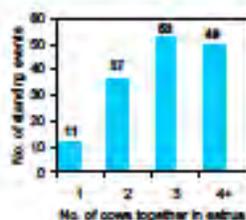


### Duration and Intensity of Estrus is Related to Milk Production

Item	Low	High <sup>1</sup>
Avg. milk, lbs/day	75 (44-88)	101 (87-130)
Days in milk	91 (50-166)	91 (50-166)
Duration of estrus, hr	11* (0.4-28)	8 (0.4-27)
Total standing events	9* (2-44)	8 (2-18)
Total standing time, sec	28* (4-138)	22 (4-75)

<sup>1</sup> More short duration (<8 hr) and low intensity (<3 stands).

### Standing Activity is a Function of the Number of Cows in Estrus



- More mounted cows (90%) are in estrus than mounting ones (78%)
- standing events ranged from 1 to 179
- inclination to mount is stage-of-cycle dependent.

Photo: grazi (10)



### Who is Mounting?



Stage of cycle	% of heifers	Σ attempted mounts	% attempted mounts
Luteal	48.3	58	5.2
Preestrual	15.4	203	18.9
Estrual	8.8	717	66.9
Postestrual	27.5	96	9.0
Total	100.0	1,072	100.0



### Three Basic Components



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### Systems Interface with Milking Parlor or by WiFi



Slide courtesy of Dr. Ray Mehal, Select Sires Inc.

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### Systems with Rumination, Eating, or Chewing Capabilities



Slide courtesy of Dr. Ray Mehal, Select Sires Inc.

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*Accelerometers*



Heatime



Select Detect

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# Ovulation Prediction

**When does ovulation occur relative to increased activity?**

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## Experimental Design

- Lactating Holstein cows were enrolled in the study beginning at 50 DIM.
- Estrus was induced by 25 mg PGF<sub>2α</sub> (PG) or 100 μg GnRH i.m. 7 days before PG or spontaneous estrus
- Ovarian scans begun at 14–16 h and repeated every 3 h.

Select Detect™ Automated Activity Monitors (n = 133)

Headwatch® pressure-sensitive rump-mounted transmitters (n = 56)



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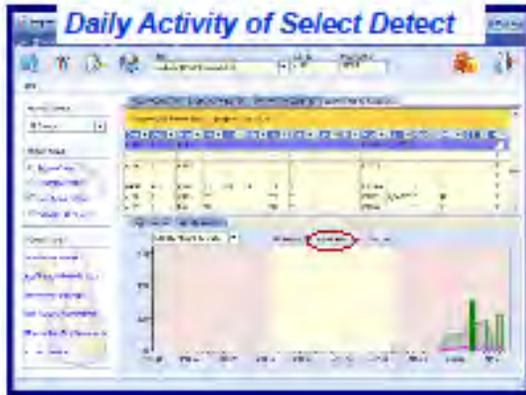
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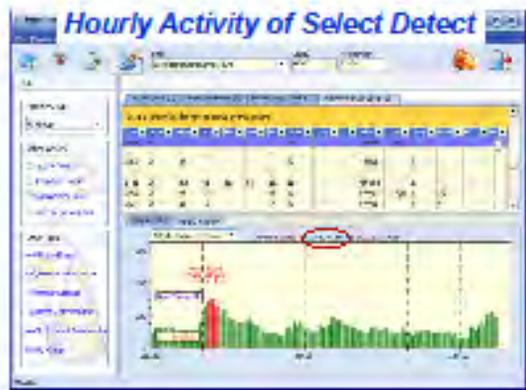
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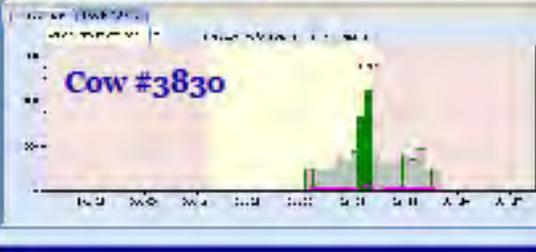
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<p><b>HeatWatch</b></p> <p>First stand at 8:53 p.m. (1/7)</p> <p>Last stand at 5:56 a.m. (1/8)</p> <p>Heat duration of 9 hr 3 min</p> <p>Stood 15x for total of 25 sec</p> <p>Ovulated 29 hr after first stand</p>	<p><b>Select Detect</b></p> <p>Threshold at 10:00 p.m. (1/7)</p> <p>Ovulated 1:55 a.m. (1/9)</p> <p>Ovulated 28 hr after threshold</p>
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# Conception Rates using Activity Monitors

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## Within Herd Comparison: Timed AI vs. Activity Monitors

Cows were enrolled randomly at calving in 832-cow dairy located in central Pennsylvania:

- Timed AI program (n = 414)



- AI according to the activity system (n = 394) for the first 3 services starting at 50 DIM.




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## Distribution of First Services




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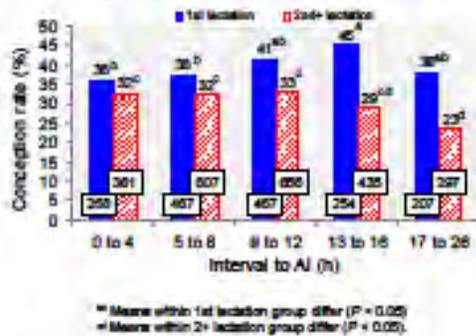
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**Pregnancy Outcomes in 19 herds**




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**Take Home Messages**

- Time of ovulation relative to start of increased activity or standing estrus is predictable:
  - Standing estrus = 27.2 ± 0.6 h
  - Activity monitor = 25.3 ± 0.6 h
- Automated activity monitors increase heat-detection rates, but may not increase conception rates.
- Activity monitors reduce Inter-insemination intervals and help get cows pregnant at a faster rate.
- Activity monitors add value to the reproductive management program, but do not identify all heats.

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**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Ohio Regional Dairy Conference**

**Update on Timed AI Programs**

**Jeffrey S. Stevenson, Ph.D.**  
 Dept of Animal Sciences and Industry




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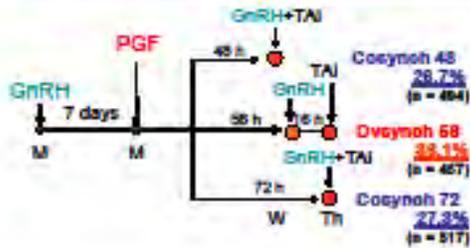
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### Timing of Second GnRH Injection of Ovsynch



Johnson et al. (2008)

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### Take Home Summary #2

Presynch "GnRH" options synchronize ovulation more precisely than Presynch "PGF" options




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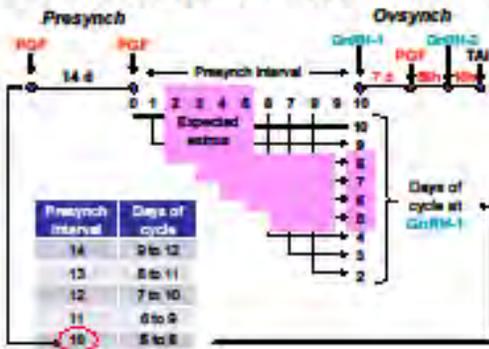
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### Standard Presynch "PGF" Options




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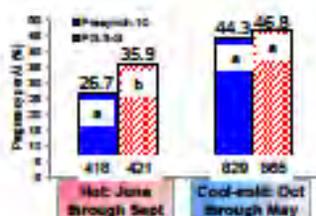


## Take Home Summary #4

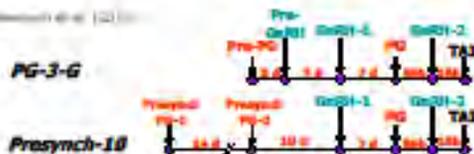
Presynch "GnRH" options increases pregnancy per AI during summer compared with Presynch "PGF" options



Benefits of a Presynch "GnRH" Option during Summer



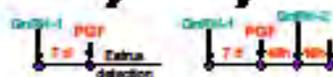
Chapman et al. (2012)



GnRH + PGF<sub>2α</sub> + Estrus Detection (Control) vs. Ovsynch during Summer

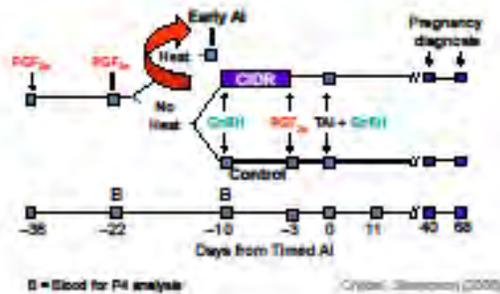
Item	Control	Ovsynch
Cows attempted to AI	218	207
AI submission rate, %	58.7	100
Conception rate, %	32.0	33.3
Pregnancy rate, %	17.9	33.3

Chapman et al. (2012)





## "Cherry Picking" CIDR Study




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## AI at Estrus then Ovsynch ± CIDR in Seven Dairy Herds

Item	Estrus and AI	Control Ovsynch	Ovsynch + CIDR
% pregnant			
No. of cows	1,652	815	871
Day 38	35.9	33.4	37.9
No. of cows	1,362	721	769
Day 62	34.9*	30.0*	34.9*

\*Different (P < 0.05).

Cramer, Stevenson et al., 2008

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## Summary

### Timed AI at First Service

- Ovsynch: inject second GnRH at 56 hours after PGF (12 to 16 hours before timed AI).
- Presynch "GnRH" options >>> Presynch "PGF" options:
  - Synchronize ovulation more precisely
  - Improve fertility because of increased progesterone and more cows have a CL to start Ovsynch
  - Increase fertility during summer compared with Presynch "PGF" options or estrus detection.
- Combining heat detection with timed AI programs can reduce costs of timed AI programs.
- Use of progesterone inserts benefits anovulatory cows, "poor-estrus expression" cows, and cows without a CL at the onset of Ovsynch.

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## Take Home Summary #6

Presynchronization before Resynch protocols may improve conception rates




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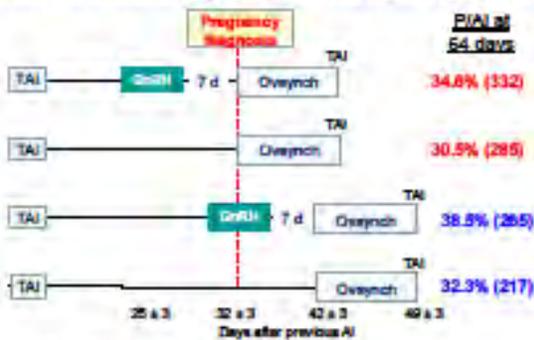
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### Different GnRH-Presynch Protocols before Resynch



Luciani et al., 2011

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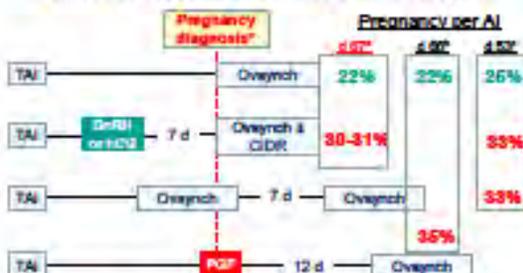
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### Different Presynch Protocols before Resynch



Presynchronization increased fertility 7 to 9% units, but some programs increase the inter-insemination interval by 7 to 13 days

\*Dewey et al., 2003; \*Wills et al., 2007; \*Gonzalez et al., 2012

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**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Ohio  
Regional Dairy Conference**

**Removing Bottlenecks that  
Limit Pregnancy Rates**

*Jeffrey S. Stevenson, Ph.D.*  
Dept of Animal Sciences and Industry



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**Dairy Management Team**

- Dairy owner-manager
- Herdsman
- Milkers, feeders
- Veterinary practitioner
- Consultants



Team goal is to increase profitability by:

- Reducing losses
- Maximizing efficiency

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**IS high milk yield related to increased stress,  
poor cow health, and poor pregnancy rates?**

*"In recent years the opinion  
has been held by a large  
number of dairymen that  
difficulties with breeding  
[cows] is associated with  
high milk production."*

**Minnesota Dairy Bulletin, 1929**



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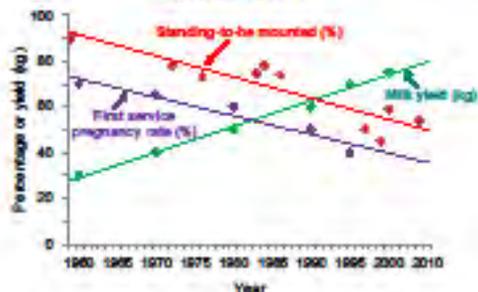
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### Changing Trends in Dairy Cows since 1960



Holroyd et al. 2008

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### Potential Losses in Reproduction

People	Cow	Herd
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heat detection efficiency</li> <li>Heat detection errors</li> <li>Inseminator skill</li> <li>AI bull fertility</li> <li>Semen storage/handling</li> <li>Heat cows</li> <li>Footing</li> <li>Vaccination program</li> <li>Transition cow nutrition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difficult birth</li> <li>Retained placentas</li> <li>Uterine infection</li> <li>Cytic ovaries</li> <li>Embryonic death</li> <li>Twining</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age</li> <li>Production</li> </ul>
<b>Management Control</b>		
<b>Large</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>LRM</b>

Siegler 2009

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### Large Management Control

Factor	Variation
Heat detection efficiency	40 to 80%
Heat detection errors	5 to 30%
Inseminator skill	40 to 60% conception at 1 <sup>st</sup> AI
AI bull fertility	40 to 63%
Semen storage/handling	Established standards
Environment – heat stress	Decreased fertility by 50%
Environment – footing	Poor footing = poor heat detection
Vaccination program	Established standards
Transition cow nutrition	Established standards

Siegler 2009

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### Moderate Management Control

Factor	Variation
Difficult birth	2 to 10%
Retained placenta	4 to 12%
Uterine infection	15 to 30%
Cystic ovaries	6 to 20%
Embryonic death	30 to 40%
Twinning	0 to 10%

Dejager, 2011

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### Little Management Control

Factor	Variation
Breed	Management preference
Age	Fertility naturally declines
Production	Negative association

Dejager, 2011

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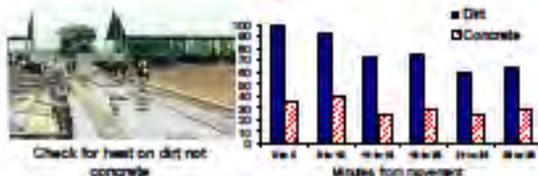
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### Poor Footing Conditions



- Cows prefer dirt (73%) to concrete during estrus.
- Mounting activity increases 3- to 15-fold when cows are on dirt.
- Duration of heat, mounting and standing activity are greater for cows on dirt.
- Maximize the number of open cows housed together.

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**Heat Detection Chalk, Paint, and Patches**




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**Heat Detection Monitors**




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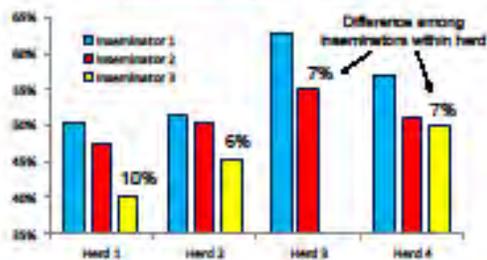
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**Inseminator Skill**




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### Semen Placement

Site of semen placement	Technician ability	
	Below average	Above average
Vagina-cervix	23.5	0.0
<b>Body of uterus</b>	<b>28.7</b>	<b>85.7</b>
Right horn	42.4	14.3
Left horn	4.4	0.0




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### Inseminator Skill

#### Recommendations

- Monitor success (compared on similar cows)
- Avoid fatigue with timed AI
- Require regular retraining
- Semen handling (gun warmers)
- Clean AI guns and thaw box



aggunwarmer.com

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### Inseminator Skill

#### AI Sheath Protectors

Treatment	CR at repeat service
Protective sheath <sup>1</sup>	43.8%
No sheath (control)	32.3%

<sup>1</sup>100-cm plastic sheath protectors

Boa et al. 2011, Ohio State University




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### Managing Heat Stress



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### Managing Heat Stress



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### Cow Comfort



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### Crossbreeding and Fertility

Item	First-lactation cows (F1 daughters)			
	Holstein	N × H	M × H	SR × H
No. of cows	536	379	375	261
Days to 1 <sup>st</sup> AI	69	82	86	66
1 <sup>st</sup> AI conception rate, %	22	36	31	30
No. of cows	520	375	371	257
Days open	150	128	131	128
Survival to 305 days, %	86	88	82	88

N = Normande, M = Montbeliard, SR = Scandinavian Red

Faloutsos et al. 2008

### Crossbreeding and Milk Yield

Item	First-lactation cows (F1 daughters)			
	Holstein	N × H	M × H	SR × H
No. of cows	380	245	494	328
Actual milk, 305-day	21,511	18,806	20,187	20,481
Milk fat, 305-day	763	783	738	750
Milk protein, 305 day	672	811	848	866

N = Normande, M = Montbeliard, SR = Scandinavian Red

Faloutsos et al. 2008

### Crossbreeding and Lifetime Production and Profitability

Item	First-lactation (F1) cows			
	Holstein	N × H	M × H	SR × H
No. of cows	380	245	494	328
Death loss, %	5.3	1.2	2.0	1.8
Survival to 4 <sup>th</sup> calf, %	29.1	+23.8	+26.8	+21.4
Lifetime milk, kg	28,086	+1,880	+4,806	+3,180
Days of herd life	946	+317	+412	+380
Lifetime profit, \$	4,347	+1,120	+2,168	+1,926

N = Normande, M = Montbeliard, SR = Scandinavian Red

Faloutsos et al. 2008

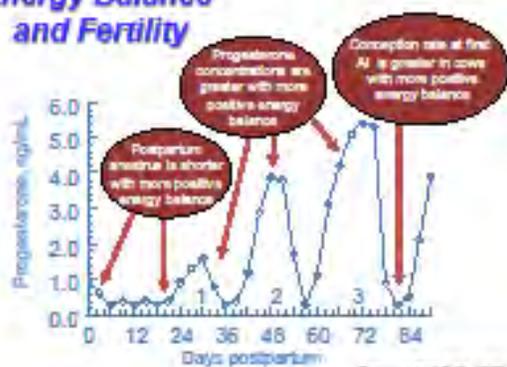
## Postpartum Health

Trait	Cervix diameter group		
	Smallest 1/3	Middle 1/3	Largest 1/3
Percentage of cows*	40%	34%	26%
First-service conception	67%	52%	47%
Days open	85	96	108

\*482 cows in 8 commercial herds in Michigan assessed between 12 and 28 DIM.

Cliftonswain et al. (1992)

## Energy Balance and Fertility



Forsaker and Britt, 1992

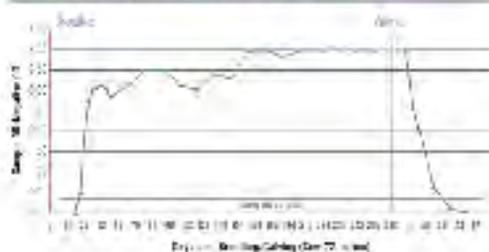
## Mastitis and Fertility

Item	None	Occurrence of mastitis		
		Before 1 <sup>st</sup> AI	Soon after 1 <sup>st</sup> AI	After pregnancy diagnosis
No. of cows	501	250	147	103
Conception at 1 <sup>st</sup> AI	29%	22%	10%	38%
Pregnant by 320 DIM	85%	72%	59%	93%
Abortion	6%	12%	12%	10%

Simon et al. 2004

### Reduce Inter-insemination Intervals by Early Nonpregnancy Detection

Detection of Early Bovine PAG Levels by IDDX ELISA




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### Applying PAG in a Timed AI Program




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### Large or Moderate Management Factors Affecting Fertility

Source of fertility	Low	Average	High
Bull	40.0%	50.0%	75.0%
Inseminator	19.0%	35.0%	46.0%
Breed (Holstein vs. Cross)	28.0%	35.0%	44.0%
Cow health	24.0%	35.0%	47.0%
Mastitis	31.6%	35.0%	45.1%
Energy balance	14.0%	35.0%	40.0%
Ambient temperature	26.3%	35.0%	43.8%
<b>Average</b>	<b>23.8%</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>44.3%</b>

Adapted from Goff, 2010

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## Conclusions

Focus management team on factors for which you have a large to moderate degree of control to prevent losses and increase efficiency:

- Heat detection and resynch of open cows
- Inseminator-insemination skills
- Sire selection
- Reduction of heat stress (add sprinklers and fans)
- Cleanliness of dry cow facilities (can affect mastitis)
- Proper assistance of cows at calving
- Monitoring feed intake of close-up cows

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### 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Ohio Regional Dairy Conference



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# 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Northeast Ohio Regional Dairy Conference

## EVALUATION

What specifically do you either like or dislike about the Buckeye Event Center?

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What comments do you have about the catering (food) service?

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Do you have any comments about the trade show part of the conference?

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What comments do you have to make about our featured speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Stevenson?

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Was Dr. Stevenson's presentation practical? \_\_\_\_\_

Did he provide you with information you can readily use on your farm? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like for the conference to allow: More time listening to speakers and less time to visit exhibits? \_\_\_\_  
More time to visit the exhibits and less time with the speaker? \_\_\_\_  
I wouldn't change the schedule from what it currently is. \_\_\_\_

This is the first year we have had a panel discussion with your peers. Is this something you would like to see done regularly?  
Yes \_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_  
Don't care \_\_\_\_

Please make any comments you may have about the panel discussion.

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Please list speakers you would like the KVVMA to consider as speakers for future meetings.

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Please list topics you would like the KVVMA to consider for future meetings.

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Do you have suggestions for improvements or changes to this meeting?

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Please place a checkmark here if you are a sponsor of this meeting. \_\_\_\_\_

**The members of the Killbuck Valley Veterinary Medical Association thank you for your participation.**

