Cristian Vergara, DVM, MS
Technical Service Consultant

The University of Wisconsin Extension and Dairy Science Department organized their 3rd annual Repro Money Workshop. Find a summary below of the presentations related to reproductive success.

“Update on Reproduction Research at UW-Madison and MSU”
Dr. Paul Fricke and Dr. Richard Pursley

The first step to setting up a pre-synch program is deciding what the best day is, after the two prostaglandin injections, to give cows the first GnRH of Ovsynch. This timing ensures optimal fertility. The table below shows the difference between programs compared to the basic 56hr Ovsynch.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presynchronization program</th>
<th>Days from onset of program to timed A.I.</th>
<th>Stage of estrous cycle at the onset of Ovsynch</th>
<th>Deviation of first-service pregnancy rate compared with Ovsynch alone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presynch-14</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>9-14</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presynch-12</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>7-12</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presynch-11</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>6-11</td>
<td>++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presynch-10</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>5-10</td>
<td>++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double Ovsynch</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PG-3-G</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-6-G</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Pursley explained how G-6-G has shown advantages as a pre-synch protocol and similarly, Double Ovsynch has shown advantages in research done at the UW-Madison. However, they were extremely clear that this increased fertility may be not be replicable everywhere due to protocol compliance on-farm since the protocols tend to be more complex due to variation in injection days. Please visit our Technical Service website to review and compare injection schedules such as the traditional Presynch14-Ovsynch and Double Ovsynch.

Lastly, Dr. Fricke discussed rebreeding protocols, pointing out the importance of a short re-enrollment period. Frequent open diagnosis with an early and effective synchronization program are key to the success of subsequent breedings. Dr. Fricke stated that Ovsynch was still the standard for re-enrolling; however, depending on the days to open diagnosis, a dairy may want to consider giving the first GnRH of the re-enrollment Ovsynch the week before the open diagnosis to ensure the time between open diagnosis and rebreeding is kept to a minimum.
“Controlling Domino Effect: Building Better Breeding Criteria for Dairy Replacement Heifers”
Dr. Pat Hoffman

Dr. Hoffman reviewed the impact genomic testing is having by helping producers make earlier heifer culling decisions before investing too much into a heifer (feed, facilities, vet, etc.). Nevertheless he explained how important it is to monitor weight and height of all heifers to check the efficacy of a feeding system in addition to the age of a heifer. The age or time fed is the part of the equation that makes a huge impact in heifer profitability. Find further information on his web page. He encouraged us to explore the available UW Extension tools to evaluate economic impacts based on replacement feeding costs.

“Using Cattle Behavior to Maximize Health, Production and Reproduction”
Dr. Amy Stanton

Dr. Stanton focused on best management practice in calves. She noted how highly effective the Johne’s disease control practices were in the overall health status of calves, including quick removal of newborns and clean maternity pens. In addition, she focused on colostrum management, stressing the importance of adequate quantity (4 quarts) in good quality (greater than 100g IgG and clean) and extracted and fed within 6 hours.

Dr. Stanton encouraged the measurement of colostrum with Brix refractometers, targeting quick refrigeration. She also mentioned the advantages of colostrum over replacements. However noted that replacements are sometimes the only option to ensure good quality and clean (pathogens) colostrum.

Finally she discussed intensified milk feeding programs, declaring that 8 quarts is the recommend amount of milk replacer, especially in winter conditions, accompanied with a thick bedded pack for the calves (score of 3 with the legs submerged in the straw) in a well-ventilated barn (force tube ventilation). Once those key things are met which equates to a well-managed calf rearing program, the next part is to record calf health events and measurements to target and monitor the set goals.

A very nice collection of articles related to Dr. Stanton’s discussion can be found at http://www.uwex.edu/ces/heifermgmt/links.cfm and http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/dms/fapm/fapmtools/calves.htm

“Tried and True: The Repro Money Program can increase your net income by enhancing your herd’s reproductive efficiency"
Dr. Connie Cordoba

Repro Money is a program developed by the UW Extension with the ultimate goal of improving reproductive performance and profitability on dairies. Dr. Cordoba showed how dairies that have been on the Repro Money program have since improved their reproductive metrics. The University of Wisconsin explained how they are open to work with any dairies, dairy industry companies or professionals may have, as long as they are willing to generate a team. Their role as facilitators and supports is to ensure management meetings are carried out, to help follow the agenda and make all
shareholders agree on focus areas to work on. The main force behind the changes will essentially come down to the dairy and consulting team.

If you or a customer are interested in the Repro Money program, visit http://fyi.uwex.edu/repromoney/556-2/register-for-repro-money/ and contact them to see if you are eligible for an evaluation. If a dairy becomes eligible, please feel free to contact your local ABS Technical Service consultant to ensure all efforts are concentrated to improve the dairy’s reproduction.