ABSTRACTS FOR POSTER PRESENTATION

Artificial Insemination

7 UTILIZATION OF CELL PROFILING TO EVALUATE BOVINE SPERMATOZOA IN NORMAL AND SIMULATED MICROGRAVITY

J.C. AndrewsA,B and S. Winters-HiltB

AThe Research Institute for Children, Children's Hospital, New Orleans, LA, USA; BThe University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA, USA. email: janeandrews@cox.net

We developed a method to evaluate bovine sperm membranes in normal (1G) and simulated microgravity (Sim-µG). Bovine spermatozoa are used as a model system because they have cellular membranes analogous to those of other cell types, and yet are much simpler because they have no cytoplasm and do not participate in DNA transcription or mRNA translation. They can be cultured as single cells and are easily evaluated for membrane characteristics using flow cytometry. These features make the mammalian spermatozoon a useful model for exploring the principles of membrane structure/function in the presence of a variety of environmental challenges such as simulated microgravity. Cryopreserved, washed beef bull sperm (4–8 × 10⁶ mL⁻¹) were incubated under non-capacitating conditions (modified glucose-free Tyrode's medium containing low bicarbonate, HEPES buffer, pyruvate and 3 mg mL⁻¹ BSA V; 23°C in air), and these spermatozoa remained alive for 24–48 h at 1G. To simulate µG, spermatozoa were incubated under the same conditions, in a HARV 10 rotating wall vessel (RWV, Synthecon, Inc, Houston, TX, USA) at 9 rpms. Spermatozoa were incubated in 1G and Sim-µG environments for 2.5–4.5 h and subsequently exposed to 0, 60 or 80 µg mL⁻¹ LC for 0, 4, 8, 12, 16 and 20 min. Three fluorochrome combinations were used as probes at each [LC]/time point: (1) propidium iodide (dead status) + SYBR 14 (live status); (2) PI + FITC-PSA (acrosome reactions [ARs]); (3) PI + MitoTracker Deep Red (mitochondrial activity). Approximately 1 million spermatozoa from 3 bulls were evaluated over 4 days. Data were acquired on a FACSVantage SE flow cytometer, and initially analyzed (quality control) using the bundled FACSVantage SE software package (Cell Quest, BD BioSciences, San Jose, CA, USA). This provided graphics of simple cell relations (fluorescence v. LC exposure time). For further statistical analysis, and incorporation of non-parametric statistical tools (including pattern recognition using Support Vector Machines), the data were processed using a collection of Perl scripts and C programs. Results: Live/dead status: When Sim-µG + 60 µg mL⁻¹ LC sperm were compared to 1G + 60 µg mL⁻¹ LC, and 80 µg mL⁻¹ LC sperm, their profiles were more similar to the 1G 80 µg mL⁻¹ LC profiles. AR status: the Sim-µG + 60 µg mL⁻¹ LC profiles were similar to the 1G + 60 µg mL⁻¹ LC profiles. Mitochondrial Status: the Sim-µG + 60 µg mL⁻¹ LC profiles were more similar to 1G + 80 µg mL⁻¹ LC profiles. Summary: although Sim-µG sperm lost their motility within 3 h, they were alive. Cell profiles indicate that Sim-µG sperm nuclear membranes are less stable and their mitochondria are less functional than the 1G controls, but their acrosomes are intact indicating that fertilizing potential may remain. Additional experiments are needed to determine the time course for Sim-µG, induced changes, and whether Sim-µG sperm can penetrate eggs. Funding: NASA (2002)-Stennis-24 and The University of New Orleans.

8 RESYNCHRONIZATION OF OVULATION AND TIMED INSEMINATION IN LACTATING DAIRY COWS USING THE OVSYNCH AND HEATSYNCH PROTOCOLS INITIATED 7 DAYS BEFORE PREGNANCY DIAGNOSIS ON DAY 30 BY ULTRASONOGRAPHY


ADepartment of Animal Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA; BCollege of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA; CNorth Florida Holstein, Inc., Bell, FL, USA. email: bartolome@animal.ufl.edu

Rapid re-synchronization of ovulation and insemination in cows found nonpregnant to a previous service is important to maintain high reproductive efficiency. The objective was to compare pregnancy rate (PR) and pregnancy losses (PL) in cows subjected to Ovsynch or Heatsynch protocols 7 days before pregnancy diagnosis by ultrasonography (U/S) on Day 30. Initiation of both protocols included administration of GnRH on Day 23, which was considered the optimal time according to the distribution of interestrus intervals in cows previously inseminated. The study was conducted in a large dairy herd located in north central Florida from March to May, 2003. Of 593 cows treated with GnRH on Day 23 (±1) after insemination and found nonpregnant at U/S on Day 30 (±1; experimental Day 0), 75% (445) had a CL (diestrus) and were sequentially assigned to the two experimental groups. Cows in the Ovsynch Group (n = 225) received 25 mg (i.m.) PGF2α (Lutalyse, Pharmacia, Kalamazoo, MI, USA) on Day 0, 100 µg (i.m.) GnRH (Cystorelin, Merial Limited, Iselin, NJ, USA) on Day 2, and were timed inseminated 16 h later. Cows in Heatsynch Group (n = 220) received 25 mg (i.m.) PGF2α on Day 0, and 1 mg (i.m.) estradiol cypionate (ECP, Pharmacia, Kalamazoo, MI, USA) on Day 1, and were...
timed-inseminated 36 h later. Pregnancy at Day 30 was determined by U/S and at Day 55 by rectal examination of the genital tract. Pregnancy rate and PL were evaluated using multiple logistic regression. Pregnancy rate at Day 30 for Ovsynch (64/225, 28.4%) and Heatsynch (63/220, 28.6%) and PR at Day 55 for Ovsynch (58/225, 25.8%) and Heatsynch (54/220, 24.5%) were not different. In addition, PL between Days 30 and 55 for Ovsynch (6/64, 9.4%) and Heatsynch (9/63, 14.3%) were not different. There were no effects of parity, inseminator and days in milk on PR. However, PR at day 30 was higher in lots with cooling systems (46/141, 32.6%) and lots of first calf heifers (41/135, 30.4%) compared to lots of multiparous cows late in lactation without cooling systems (32/148, 21.6%). In conclusion, Heatsynch and Ovsynch initiated 7 days before pregnancy diagnosis on Day 30 had comparable PR of 25% at Day 55 in lactating dairy cows during the period of March–May.

9 THE USE OF eCG TO INCREASE PREGNANCY RATES IN POSTPARTUM BEEF COWS FOLLOWING TREATMENT WITH PROGESTERONE VAGINAL DEVICES AND ESTRADIOL BENZOATE AND FIXED-TIME AI

G.A. BoA,B, L. CutaiaA,B,D, P. ChestaA, and D. MorenoA,C

AInstituto de Reproducción Animal Córdoba (IRAC), Córdoba, Argentina; BUniv. Católica de Córdoba, Córdoba, Argentina; CUNICEN, Córdoba, Argentina; DAg. Cba. Ciencia, Córdoba, Argentina. email: gabrielbo@iracbiogen.com.ar

Treatments with progesterone (P4) releasing devices and estradiol benzoate (EB) have been extensively used in fixed-time AI (FTAI) programs in beef cattle. However, pregnancy rates in postpartum cows kept on pasture often have been lower than expected because of poor body condition score (BCS) and a high incidence of anestrous. A recent study (Cutaia L. et al., 2003 Theriogenology 59, 216) suggested that the addition of eCG to a P4/EB FTAI program may improve pregnancy rates in cows with poor BCS, but results were not conclusive. Therefore, this experiment was designed to further investigate the effect of eCG treatment on pregnancy rates in postpartum beef cows in those conditions. The experiment was performed at 2 locations with lactating Angus cows (n = 93), 60 to 90 d postpartum with a BCS 1.9 (1 to 5 scale; Location 1), and crossbred Zebu cows (n = 290), 60 to 90 d postpartum with a BCS 2.0 (Location 2). In each Location, cows were randomly allocated to 1 of the following treatment groups: Control, eCG Day 6, or eCG Day 8. All cows received a P4 intravaginal device (DIB, Syntex, Argentina) and 2 mg EB i.m. (Syntex) on Day 0, 500 mg cloprostenol (Estroplan, Syntex) at the time of DIB removal (Day 8), 1 mg EB i.m. on Day 9 and FTAI 52 to 56 h after DIB removal. Cows in the Control group received no further treatment, whereas cows in the eCG-treated groups received 400 IU eCG (Novormon 5000, Syntex) on Day 6 or Day 8. Cows were examined on Day 0 by rectal palpation (Location 1) or by ultrasonography (US; Location 2) and were classified as those with a CL or without a CL, with either large (>8 mm) or small (<8 mm) small follicles. Pregnancy was determined by US 45 d after FTAI. Data were analyzed by logistic regression and the effects of location, treatment, ovarian status, AI technician and semen were considered in the model. There was no effect of location (P = 0.3), AI technician (P = 0.2) or semen (P = 0.8) on pregnancy rates. However, there was an effect of treatment (P = 0.02), attributed to higher pregnancy rates in the eCG Groups than in the Control Group (Table). Furthermore, cows with a CL but without a CL but with large follicles on Day 0 had higher pregnancy rates than those with small follicles (P = 0.04). It was concluded that the use of eCG in a P4/EB FTAI program improved pregnancy rates in postpartum beef cows that were in fair to poor BCS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ovarian status</th>
<th>Group eCG Day 6</th>
<th>Group eCG Day 8</th>
<th>Control group</th>
<th>P values</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CL</td>
<td>26/33 (78.8%)a</td>
<td>28/41 (68.3%)b</td>
<td>26/47 (55.3%)b</td>
<td>P = 0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large follicles</td>
<td>33/49 (67.8%)a</td>
<td>34/59 (57.6%)ab</td>
<td>29/68 (42.6%)b</td>
<td>P = 0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small follicles</td>
<td>13/27 (48.1%)a</td>
<td>19/32 (59.4%)</td>
<td>11/27 (40.7%)</td>
<td>P = 0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>72/109 (66.1%)b</td>
<td>81/132 (61.4%)b</td>
<td>66/142 (46.5%)b</td>
<td>P = 0.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a,bPercentages differed significantly.

10 CASA EVALUATION OF SEXED AND NON-SEXED FROZEN BULL SEMEN

G. Brogliatti, G. Barreiro, G. Larraburu, and A. Laborde

Centro Genetico Bovino, Eolia SA, Argentina. email: gbrogliatti@hotmail.com

Flow citometry cell sorting has been proven successfully to separate X and Y sperm; however, the technology is still too stressfull for the viability of the sorted semen. The objective of this study was to evaluate successfully sexed and sexed frozen sperm motility characteristics using a CASA technology. Ejaculates from 4 different bulls (3 Holstein and 1 Angus) were collected, and processed as split non-sexed and sexed semen samples using Tris egg yolk extenders. X and Y sperm were separated using a high-speed sort (SX Motlo). Cryopreservation was done at the same time under appropriate conditions using a programmed cryochamber. Thawing procedure was done at 37°C for 30 s and a sample of each straw was placed in the evaluation chamber. The experiment was repeated twice and two chambers with 30 observations each were analyzed at each time. Mean and standard deviation of each characteristic were calculated, compared and analyzed statistically. The sperm concentration was determined by means of a burker counting chamber. Sperm quality was determined at 0 h after thawing, and later at 1 h, 2 h and 3 h after incubation in a glass tube at 30°C. The following sperm motility parameters were determined with the Hamilton Thorne (HTM-ceros 12.1) on at least 1000 spermatozoa: velocity average path (VAP), velocity straight line (VSL), amplitude lateral head (ALH), beat frequency (BCF), straightness (STR), linearity (LIN), and percentage of progressively motile spermatozoa (PMS). Linearity of sexed spermatozoa was 53 ± 3.5, 47 ± 0.8, 43 ± 7.8 and 42 ± 4.5 for the 0 h and the 3 test incubation times and 49.5 ± 3.7, 51.2 ± 3.7, 43.3 ± 7.8 and 44.5 ± 7.6, respectively, for sexed semen. There were no significant differences (P > 0.05) in the progressive velocity, track speed and linearity between sexed and nonsexed semen. The percentage of static cells was 33%, 30%,
The objective was to investigate the effect of presynchronization with PGF prior to a Cosynch protocol on estrus synchrony, CL and preovulatory follicle diameters and pregnancy rate following timed-AI (TAI) in beef heifers. Cycling beef heifers (n = 148) were treated with 100 µg GnRH i.m. (Cystoerin, Merial Canada Inc., Victoriaville, Quebec, Canada) on Day 0, 500 µg cloprostenol i.m. (PGF; Estrumate, Schering Plough Animal Health, Pointe-Claire, Quebec, Canada) on Day 7, and GnRH concurrent with TAI on Day 9 (54 h after PGF). Half of the heifers (Control) received the first GnRH treatment at random stages of the estrous cycle, while the other half (Presynch) received two injections of PGF 11 days apart, with the first injection of GnRH 11 days after the second injection of PGF. Estrus detection was done between the first GnRH and 12 h after PGF, and heifers detected in estrus were inseminated (and considered nonpregnant to TAI), while all other heifers were TAI. Heifers were examined by transrectal ultrasonography for CL and follicle development, and confirmation of pregnancy. Data were compared between groups using Student’s t-test and chi-square procedures. The numbers of heifers in estrus early (after first GnRH and before TAI) was higher in the Control group than in the Presynch group (18/74 v. 2/74, respectively; P < 0.0001). Mean (±SD) diameters of the dominant follicle (12.1 ± 3.1 v. 14.2 ± 2.5 mm) and CL (17.3 ± 5.5 v. 20.5 ± 4.3 mm) at first GnRH injection were smaller (P < 0.0001) and more variable (P < 0.03) in Control than Presynch heifers, but diameters of the preovulatory follicle (P = 0.3) and CL (P = 0.1) at TAI did not differ. Although the diameter of the preovulatory follicle was more variable (P < 0.004) in Control (5 to 19 mm) than Presynch (8 to 17 mm) heifers, pregnancy rate to TAI did not differ (P = 0.4; 29.7 v. 36.5%, respectively). Overall pregnancy rates were 45.9 and 37.8% for Control and Presynch groups, respectively (P = 0.3). Pregnancy rate tended (P < 0.08) to be affected by the diameter of the preovulatory follicle at the time of TAI (0.23.1, 45.7, 41.4, and 60.0% pregnant for diameters of <9.9–11, 12–14, 15–17, and >17 mm, respectively). Regardless of treatment, diameter of the preovulatory dominant follicle (P < 0.02) and CL (P < 0.03) 7 days after TAI was smaller, and CL diameter was more variable (P < 0.004), in open than in pregnant heifers (12.7 ± 2.6 v. 13.8 ± 2.1 mm, and 16.5 ± 4.4 v. 18.0 ± 3.0 mm, respectively). In summary, presynchronization with PGF prior to a Cosynch protocol reduced the proportion of heifers in estrus before TAI, suggesting that this approach may be useful in the successful application of Ovsynch or Cosynch programs in heifers. However, pregnancy rate to TAI did not differ between groups in this study. Diameter of the preovulatory follicle tended to positively affect pregnancy rate, regardless of treatment.

**12 PREDICTION OF BULL FERTILITY BY COMPUTER ASSISTED SEMEN ANALYSIS**

S. Cseh, T. Polichronopoulos, and L. Solti

SZIE Faculty of Veterinary Sciences, Department and Clinic of Obstetrics and Reproduction H-1400 Budapest, P.O.B. 2, Hungary.

email: scseh@univet.hu

Sperm motility is clearly essential for fertility both in vivo and in vitro. Motility is necessary for successful sperm transport, a step that is bypassed with in vitro fertilization. Recently, increasing attention has been paid to the objective evaluation and characterization of sperm motility. The purpose of computer-assisted semen analysis (CASA) is to provide values for sperm concentration and sperm motility more rapidly and accurately than those obtained with traditional semen analyses methods. The objective of our experiment was to investigate the effect of specific aspects of sperm movement, such as the velocity of progression and the actual path velocity, regardless of treatment. Sperm motility is clearly essential for fertilization both in vivo and in vitro. Motility is necessary for successful sperm transport, a step that is bypassed with in vitro fertilization. Recently, increasing attention has been paid to the objective evaluation and characterization of sperm motility more than simply determining the total proportion of motile spermatozoa. The purpose of computer-assisted semen analysis (CASA) is to provide values for sperm concentration and sperm motility more rapidly and accurately than those obtained with traditional semen analyses methods. The objective of our experiment was to investigate the effect of specific aspects of sperm movement, such as the velocity of progression and the actual path velocity, regardless of treatment.

Artificial Insemination
Although the interval from treatment to wave emergence did not differ among treatments (P<0.02). Our data indicate that the bulls with lower VCL (25.51 ± 33.04 to 79.54 ± 58.03), VSL (11.35 ± 19.45 to 36.36 ± 35.71), and VAP (12.67 ± 19.06 to 41.75 ± 34.45) values showed lower fertilization rates both at NR30 and NR75. Computer and video technologies have advanced rapidly in recent years; thus the capability and accuracy of the latest versions of CASA systems are considerably better and they give more information about the different motion characteristics of spermatozoa. Because of the vital role of sperm motility in the reproductive process, such systems will enable us to move into a new era of diagnostic andrology and predict the fertilizing capability of semen. Supported by NKFP-Grants 4/040/2001 and 4/031/2001.

13 FOLLICLE TOURNOVER DURING SYNCHRONIZATION TREATMENTS IN MEDITERRANEAN ITALIAN BUFFALOES (BUBALUS BALUS)  


AInst. Sperimentale per la Zootecnia, MiPA, Roma, Italy; BBiofertility, Roma, Italy; CCentro Sperimentale per La Zootecnia, ARSIAL, Roma, Italy. email: csz@arsial.it

The utilization of synchronization protocols for ovulation and AI in the buffaloes has not gained a widespread use among breeders due to the usually low conception rates achieved. The tendency to enter into postpartum anestrus in the period of the year characterized by increasing day length further affects the manipulation of their reproductive efficiency. This study, carried out in the months of February to May, was designed to test the hypothesis that newly growing dominant follicles towards the end of synchronization protocols for ovulation, are more competent for establishing pregnancies following AI in cycling and non-cycling buffaloes. Animals were checked by ultrasound (7.5 MHz linear-array probe and SSD 500 Aloka monitor) for signs of ovarian activity and classified into cycling and non-cycling based on the presence of functional CLs and follicle turnover. Cycling buffalo heifers (CHE; n = 30), cycling mixed parity buffaloes (CMP; n = 14) and non-cycling mixed parity buffaloes (NCMP; n = 17) were selected for a direct comparison between two synchronization protocols. CHE and CMP received two GnRH administrations at Day 0 and 9 and a luteolytic dose of P2G2 at Day 7, followed by a single AI at 16 h from last GnRH (‘Ovsynch’). NCMP group received a PRID implant for 9 days and 1,000 IU of PMSG at Day 7 followed by two AI at 72 and 96 h from PRID removal (‘PRID + PMSG’). Ultrasound monitoring for CHE and CMP of animals was performed at day 0, 2, 4, 7, 9, and day of AI. In NCMP, ultrasound monitoring was continued also at 48, 72, and 120 h after PRID removal. Like superscripts (a,b) after % signs indicate significant difference. A follicle >9 mm was present in 16/17 NCMP (94.1%), 14/14 CMP (100%), and 17/30 CHE (56.6%); P < 0.05) at the beginning of the synchronization protocol (day 0). Demise of the first large follicle recorded at day 0 and presence of a new large follicle at day 7 to 9 leading or not to ovulation, in the ovary ipsilateral or contralateral (‘follicle shift’) occurred in 15/17 (88.2%), 11/14 (78.5%), and 14/30 (46.6%); P > 0.05) for NCMP, CMP, and CHE respectively. Synchronized ovulations were recorded in 15/17 (88.2%), 12/14 (85.7%), and 26/30 (86.6%); P > 0.05) for NCMP, CMP, and CHE respectively. Conception rates (CR) by ultrasound examination at 25 to 30 days post-insemination were 12/17 (70.5%), 6/14 (42.8%), and 11/30 (36.6%); P < 0.05) for NCMP, CMP, and CHE, respectively. Conceptions derived from follicle shift (either ipsilateral or contralateral) were 11/12 (91.6%), 5/6 (83.3%), and 7/11 (63.6%); P > 0.05) for NCMP, CMP, and CHE respectively. In conclusion, both synchronization protocols in the three groups of buffaloes produced good ovulation and conception rates in the unfavourable period of the year. Most pregnancies resulted from fertilization of oocytes maturing in newly selected growing follicles toward the end of the synchronization protocol, suggesting a higher development competence compared to oocytes in large follicles already available at the beginning of the procedure, not regressing and leading to ovulation.

14 OVARIAN FOLLICULAR DYNAMICS IN COWS TREATED WITH A CIDR, ESTRADIOL AND PROGESTERONE LATE IN THE ESTROUS CYCLE  


Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Research Centre, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada; BNVCM, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada; CAgri-Food Canada, Research Centre, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. email: kastelic@agr.gc.ca

The objective was to characterize ovarian follicular dynamics in beef cows treated with a CIDR (Bioniche Animal Health; Belleville, Ontario, Canada) and an injection of estradiol-17β (E2), with or without progesterone (P4), late in the estrous cycle. Previously synchronized, non-lactating, crossbred beef cows (n = 36) received a CIDR (Day 0) 16 to 18 days after ovulation and were randomly allocated to one of three treatment groups: no further treatment (Control, n = 12), an injection of 5 mg E2 (E2, n = 12), or 5 mg E2 plus 100 mg P4 (E2P4, n = 12; both from Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO, USA) i.m. in 2 mL canola oil. On Day 7, CIDR were removed and cows received 500 μg i.m. of cloprostenol ( Estrumate, Schering Plough Animal Health, Pointe-Claire, Quebec, Canada). Ovaries were examined once daily by transrectal ultrasonography to detect ovarian follicle growth profiles, and determine the time of ovulation. Blood samples were taken daily for progesterone determination. Data were analyzed by ANOVA (LSD and Bartlett’s tests). Student’s t-test and chi-square procedures. Diameter of the CL and the dominant follicle, and progesterone concentration on Day 0 did not differ among groups (P = 0.6; overall mean ± SD, 16.8 ± 2.7 mm, 14.1 ± 2.0 mm, and 1.5 ± 1.9 ng mL, respectively). Thirteen cows ovulated within 3 days of treatment (50% of E2- and E2P4-treated cows and 8.3% of Control cows; P = 0.05); cows that ovulated had smaller CL diameters (15.2 ± 1.7 v. 17.7 ± 2.7 mm; P < 0.004) and lower progesterone concentrations (0.4 ± 0.2 v. 2.1 ± 2.2 μg mL; P < 0.001) at the time of treatment. Follicular wave emergence occurred within 7 days in 4/12 Control cows, 10/12 E2-treated cows, and 10/12 E2P4-treated cows (P < 0.01). Although the interval from treatment to wave emergence did not differ among treatments (P = 0.8; overall, 3.4 ± 1.5 days), follicular wave emergence was more synchronous (P < 0.001) in the E2 group than in the Control or E2P4 groups. At CIDR removal, dominant follicle diameter was larger (P < 0.02) in the Control group (15.9 ± 5.5 mm) than in the E2 (11.9 ± 1.8 mm) or E2P4 (11.5 ± 3.4 mm) groups, but dominant follicle diameter…
was less variable \((P < 0.003)\) in the E2 group than in the other two groups. Three cows did not ovulate after CIDR removal; two in the Control group and one in the E2P4 group. Interval to ovulation was shorter \((P < 0.05)\) in the Control group \((70.8 \pm 10.5 \text{~h})\) than in the E2 \((87.0 \pm 9.0 \text{~h})\) or E2P4 \((86.2 \pm 7.2 \text{~h})\) groups, and the intervals to ovulation in cows that ovulated following treatment \((91.0 \pm 8.0 \text{~h})\) was longer \((P < 0.001)\) than in those that did not \((76.6 \pm 9.6 \text{~h})\). In summary, treatment of cows with an estradiol-progesterone protocol late in the estrous cycle resulted in ovulation \((50.0\%)\), atresia \((33.3\%)\) or persistence \((16.6\%)\) of the dominant follicle present at that time. As length of follicular dominance and timing of ovulation were affected, fertility may be impaired following AI.

### 15 EFFECT OF DOSE OF ESTRADIOL VALERATE ON OVARIAN FOLLICULAR DYNAMICS IN CIDR-TREATED BEEF COWS


AWCVM, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada; BAgriulture and Agri-Food Canada, Research Centre, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada; CAgriulture and Agri-Food Canada, Research Centre, Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. email: reuben.mapleton@usask.ca

The objective was to investigate the effect of dose of estradiol valerate (EV) on ovarian follicular growth profiles, intervals to follicular wave emergence and, following CIDR removal, estrus and ovulation in beef cows. On Day 0, 43 non-lactating, crossbred beef cows, 3 to 9 yr of age and at random stages of the estrous cycle, received a CIDR (Bioniche Animal Health; Belleville, Ontario, Canada) and were randomly allocated to one of four groups to receive no further treatment (Control; \(n = 10\)), or an injection of 1 mg \((n = 11)\), 2 mg \((n = 10)\), or 5 mg \((n = 12)\) i.m. of EV (Sigma Chemical Co, St. Louis, MO, USA) in 2 mL canola oil. On Day 7, CIDR were removed and cows received 500 µg i.m. of cloprostenol (Estrumate, Schering Plough Animal Health, Pointe-Claire, Quebec, Canada). Ovaries were examined by transrectal ultrasonography once daily until 48 h after CIDR removal to detect ovarian follicle growth profiles, and twice daily thereafter to detect ovulation. Data were analyzed by ANOVA (LSD and Bartlett’s tests) and chi-square procedures. One cow (5 mg EV group) lost the CIDR and was removed from all analyses. There was an effect of day \((P < 0.0001)\) on CL diameter, but the effects of treatment \((P = 0.3)\), and the treatment-by-day interaction \((P = 0.1)\), were not significant. Follicular wave emergence occurred within 7 d in 7/10 (70%) Control cows and 31/32 (97%; \(P < 0.04\)) EV-treated cows (one cow in late diestrus at the time of treatment did not respond to 1 mg EV). Mean \((\pm SD)\) interval from treatment to wave emergence was longer \((P < 0.03)\) in cows treated with 5 mg EV \((4.8 \pm 1.2 \text{~d})\) than in those treated with 1 mg \((3.2 \pm 0.9 \text{~d})\) or 2 mg EV \((3.4 \pm 0.8 \text{~d})\), while Control cows were intermediate \((3.8 \pm 2.0 \text{~d})\). Although follicular wave emergence tended \((P < 0.09)\) to be more synchronous in cows receiving EV intervals from CIDR removal to estrus \((P = 0.7)\) and ovulation \((P = 0.8)\) did not differ among groups. Diameter of the dominant follicle was smaller \((P < 0.04)\) at CIDR removal and tended to be smaller \((P < 0.08)\) prior to ovulation in the 5 mg EV group \((8.5 \pm 2.2 \text{~mm})\) and 13.2 ± 0.6 mm, respectively) than in the Control \((11.8 \pm 4.6 \text{~mm})\) or 2 mg EV \((11.7 \pm 2.5 \text{~mm})\) groups, respectively) groups, with the 2 mg EV group \((10.7 \pm 1.5 \text{~mm})\) and 14.3 ± 1.7 mm, respectively) intermediate. Diameter of the dominant follicle at CIDR removal was less variable \((P < 0.01)\) in the 2 and 5 mg EV groups than in the Control group and intermediate in the 1 mg EV group. In summary, dose of EV affected follicular dynamics, interval to and synchrony of follicular wave emergence, and dominant follicle diameter at CIDR removal and just prior to ovulation in CIDR-treated cows. However, interval from CIDR removal to estrus and ovulation was not affected by treatment. Results suggest that a dose of 2 mg EV may be most efficacious in synchronizing follicular wave emergence in CIDR-treated cows.

### 16 FERTILIZING POTENTIAL OF STORED TURKEY SPERM

J.M. MorrellA, H. TjellströmB, B. PerssonB, and P.V. HolmesA

ANidaCon International, Gothenburg, Sweden; BAdelsåsen, Sweden. email: jane@nidacon.com

Considerable interest exists in prolonging the viability and duration of the fertilizing capacity of turkey sperm. Commercially available extenders for turkey semen are unable to maintain sperm survival for longer than a few hours and attempts to develop a suitable cryopreservation medium have met with limited success. The objective of the present study was to investigate the use of andrology products designed and optimized for turkey semen.

[Artificial Insemination](#)
ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

17 PREVENTION OF ANESTRUS USING AN INTRAVAGINAL PROGESTAGEN DEVICE COMBINED WITH 17β-ESTRADIOL, GnRH, AND PGGF2α AT 60 DAYS POSTPARTUM IN DUAL PURPOSE CROSSBRED ZEBU COWS


AFacultad de Ciencias Veterinarias, Universidad del Zulia, Maracaibo, Zulia, Venezuela; BGrupo de Investigadores en Reproduccion Animal de la Region Zuliana (GIRARZ), Maracaibo, Zulia, Venezuela; C Venezolana de Inseminacion Artificial y Transplante de Embiones, C.A (VIATECA), Villa del Rosario, Zulia, Venezuela. email: hjherman@cantv.net

In order to study the effect of an intravaginal device (sponge) impregnated with Medroxyprogesterone acetate (MAP) on estrus induction and fertility, an assay was carried out on a commercial farm located in Zulia state, Venezuela. Eighty-four noncyclic (milk progesterone level <0.5 ng/mL) suckled crossbred cows (B. taurus × B. indicus) at 60 days postpartum and 3–3.5 body condition score (scale 1–5) were randomly allotted to one of the following treatments: T1 (n = 22), intravaginal device impregnated with 250 mg of MAP during 7 days + 50 mg of MAP and 5 mg of 17β-estradiol (17β-E) i.m. on the day of device insertion (Day 0) and 1.5 mg of 17β-E i.m. on Day 8 (Pregnaheat-E®; VIATECA,Venezuela); T2 (n = 28), 17β-E given at Day 0 was replaced by 20 µg of busereline (Conceptal® Hoescht, A. Germany)+ injection of 25 mg of dinoprost (Lutalyse® Pharcmia Upjohn, Kalamazoo, MI, USA) on Day 7 and 1.5 mg of 17β-E 12 h after device removal (Day 8); T3 (control group; n = 34), without treatment. Animals detected in heat were inseminated in the uterine body 9 to 12 hours later in routine AM-PM. Pregnancy diagnose was carried out at variance model (PROC GLM) and compared by Ls means. Results are shown in Table 1. T1 and T2 showed higher ER and PR (18.7 ng CL). Results show that inhibition of ovarian activity with levonorgestrel before eCG/hCG improves ovarian response and alleviates accessory CL development in the domestic cat.

Table 1. Effect of an intravaginal progestagen device on reproductive performance in crossbred Zebu cows

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatments</th>
<th>Estrus rate (n%)</th>
<th>Pregnancy rate (n%)</th>
<th>Anoestrus rate (n%)</th>
<th>PCI* (days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T1 (22)</td>
<td>59.1 ± (13)</td>
<td>45.5 ± (10)</td>
<td>31.8 ± (7)</td>
<td>132.5 ± 16.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T2 (28)</td>
<td>64.3 ± (18)</td>
<td>39.3 ± (11)</td>
<td>17.9 ± (5)</td>
<td>140.4 ± 14.4ab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T3 (34)</td>
<td>26.5 ± (9)</td>
<td>17.6 ± (6)</td>
<td>58.8 ± (20)</td>
<td>178.9 ± 14.7b</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values in the same column with different superscripts differ. (a,b) P < 0.05. * Means ± S.E.

18 OVARIAN SUPPRESSION WITH THE PROGESTIN LEVONORGESTREL IMPROVES OVULATION INDUCTION FOR ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION IN THE DOMESTIC CAT


AConservation & Research Center, Smithsonian’s National Zoological Park, Front Royal, VA, USA; BDepartment of Animal and Avian Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA. email: kpelican@nzp.si.edu

Ovarian response to gonadotropin stimulation for artificial insemination (AI) is variable in the domestic cat. In order to study the effect of an intravaginal device (sponge) impregnated with Medroxyprogesterone acetate (MAP) on estrus induction and fertility, an assay was carried out on a commercial farm located in Zulia state, Venezuela. Eighty-four noncyclic (milk progesterone level <0.5 ng/mL) suckled crossbred cows (B. taurus × B. indicus) at 60 days postpartum and 3–3.5 body condition score (scale 1–5) were randomly allotted to one of the following treatments: T1 (n = 22), intravaginal device impregnated with 250 mg of MAP during 7 days + 50 mg of MAP and 5 mg of 17β-estradiol (17β-E) i.m. on the day of device insertion (Day 0) and 1.5 mg of 17β-E i.m. on Day 8 (Pregnaheat-E®; VIATECA,Venezuela); T2 (n = 28), 17β-E given at Day 0 was replaced by 20 µg of busereline (Conceptal® Hoescht, A. Germany)+ injection of 25 mg of dinoprost (Lutalyse® Pharcmia Upjohn, Kalamazoo, MI, USA) on Day 7 and 1.5 mg of 17β-E 12 h after device removal (Day 8); T3 (control group; n = 34), without treatment. Animals detected in heat were inseminated in the uterine body 9 to 12 hours later in routine AM-PM. Pregnancy diagnose was carried out at variance model (PROC GLM) and compared by Ls means. Results are shown in Table 1. T1 and T2 showed higher ER and PR (18.7 ng CL). Results show that inhibition of ovarian activity with levonorgestrel before eCG/hCG improves ovarian response and alleviates accessory CL development in the domestic cat.
19 POSTPARTUM ANESTROUS TREATMENT WITH INTRA-VAGINAL PROGESTERONE DEVICE OR Calf REMOVAL for 120 Hours in Suckled Crossbred Dual Purpose Cows


ADepartamento de Ciencias Agrarias, Universidad de los Andes, Trujillo, Venezuela; BGrupo de Investigadores de la Reproducción Animal de la Región Zuliana (GIRARZ), Maracaibo, Zulia, Venezuela; CVenezolana de Inseminacion Artificial y Transplante de Embriones (VIATECA), Villa del Rosario, Zulia, Venezuela. email: hjhernan@cantv.net

Postpartum anestrus is the main reproductive problem that affects crossbred cattle production in Venezuela. (Soto et al., 2002 Theriogenology 57, 1503–1510; Soto et al., 2000 Revista Científica FCV-LUZ 10, 391–398). In order to reduce the postpartum anestrus and lower the calving to conception interval, 167 crossbred (Bos indicus × Bos taurus) anestrous cows between 90 and 130 days postpartum with body condition score 3 (scale 1–5) were randomly allotted to one of the following treatments: 1) PH (n = 59), intravaginal sponge (IS) impregnated with 250 mg of medroxy-progesterone acetate (MAP) during 7 days + 50 mg of MAP and 5 mg of 17β-estradiol (17β-E) i.m. at the day of sponge insertion (Day 0), plus 500 IU of eCG i.m. at Day 5 and 1.5 mg of 17β-E i.m. at Day 8 (PREGNAHEAT-E, VIATECA, Villa del Rosario, Venezuela); 2) CR (n = 57), 120-h temporary calf removal; and 3) CG (n = 20), control group. Work was performed in a commercial farm located in a subhumid tropical forest region. Estrus, first service conception and pregnancy rate were analyzed by chi-square analysis. The intervals to conception were analyzed using analysis of variance (GLM) and the means was compared by least square means method. To evaluate the effect of treatment, the interval to conception of each pregnant cow during the first 100 days were considered for the analysis. This interval (days) was significantly (P < 0.05) higher in the PH treatment (155.9 ± 7.3) compared to control (174.4 ± 8.1) but no differences were shown between PH and CR (161.0 ± 7.8). Other results are shown in Table 1. PH treatment improved the estrus and pregnancy rates and shorten the interval to conception indicating that this is a promising anesthetic treatment for suckled crossbred dual purpose cows under tropical conditions.

### Table 1. Reproductive performance of postpartum anestrous suckled cows treated with intravaginal progesterone or temporary calf removal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatments</th>
<th>Estrus rate</th>
<th>First service conception rate</th>
<th>Pregnancy rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
<td>n (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PH</td>
<td>47 (79.6)a</td>
<td>23 (48.9)b</td>
<td>23 (39.0)c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CR</td>
<td>30 (52.6)c</td>
<td>14 (46.6)d</td>
<td>14 (24.5)c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CG</td>
<td>14 (27.4)c</td>
<td>6 (42.8)c</td>
<td>6 (11.7)c</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values with different superscripts differ (a,b,c P < 0.01).

20 EFFECTS OF BOVINE SOMATOTROPIN TREATMENT ON AI PREGNANCY RATE IN DAIRY HEIFERS

R.W. Rorie, C.F. Rosenkrans, and A.J. Aishman
Department of Animal Science, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, USA. email: rrorie@uark.edu

Treatment of superovulated cows with bovine somatotropin (bST) at the time of insemination has been reported to decrease the number of unfertilized oocytes, while increasing the development rate and morphological quality of embryos (Thatcher WW et al., 2001 Theriogenology 55, 75–89). These findings suggest that bST treatment might be used to improve pregnancy rates in inseminated cattle. The objective of this study was to further investigate the effects of bST (Posilac; Monsanto Co., St. Louis, MO, USA) treatment at or after insemination on subsequent pregnancy rate in dairy heifers. Crossbred dairy heifers (n = 73) between 14 to 15 months of age and averaging 331 ± 3.6 kg, were used for the study. Estrus was induced by a single or repeated (at 14-day intervals) injections of 25 mg of PGF2α. Heifers were observed at least twice daily and artificially inseminated about 12 h after detection of estrus. At estrus, heifers were randomly assigned across treatments. Treatments were bST (Posilac) injection (500 mg, s.c.) at the time of insemination (Day 0), on Day 14, or both at insemination and on Day 14. Untreated animals served as controls. On Day 45 after estrus, ultrasonography was used to determine pregnancy status and measure fetal-crown-rump length. Chi-square analysis was used to evaluate the effect of treatment on pregnancy rate. Analysis of variance was used to compare fetal crown-rump length among treatments. Results are presented in the table below. Treatment of heifers with bST at insemination had no effect (P = 0.306) on pregnancy rate when compared with the control group. However, bST treatment on Day 14, or on both Days 0 and 14, reduced (P = 0.009) pregnancy rate, when compared with the control and Day 0 bST treatment groups. Pregnancy rate was similar (P = 0.729) for heifers receiving bST on Day 14 v. Days 0 and 14. Fetal growth, as measured by crown-rump length, was unaffected by treatment (P = 0.603). Results indicate the timing of bST treatment after the onset of estrus can influence the subsequent pregnancy rate in dairy heifers.

### Table 2. Reproductive performance of dairy heifers treated with bST at time of insemination

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>No. of animals</th>
<th>No. preg (%)</th>
<th>C-R length (mm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Control</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>17 (94.4)a</td>
<td>25.5 ± 2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bST, Day 0</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16 (84.2)a</td>
<td>26.1 ± 4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bST, Day 14</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12 (66.7)b</td>
<td>27.4 ± 0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bST, Days 0 and 14</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>11 (61.1)b</td>
<td>28.1 ± 0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Values with different superscripts differ significantly (a,b P = 0.009).
DEEP UTERO-TUBAL SEMEN DEPOSITION IN MEDITERRANEAN ITALIAN BUFFALOES USING A NEW ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION DEVICE

E.M. Senatore\textsuperscript{A}, S. Verberckmoes\textsuperscript{B}, M. Pascale\textsuperscript{C}, and G.A. Presicce\textsuperscript{D}

\textsuperscript{A}Biofertility, Roma, Italy; \textsuperscript{B}Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health, Ghent University, Belgium; \textsuperscript{C}Azienda Zootecnica ‘Torre Lupara’, Pastorano (CE), Italy; \textsuperscript{D}ARSIAL, Centro Sperimentale per la Zootecnia, Roma, Italy. email: csz@arsial.it

The use of AI in the buffalo species is still marginal due to traditional lower conception rates when compared to cattle. However recently a number of studies in this field have revealed a promising increase in the efficiency of synchronization protocols for AI linked to more acceptable pregnancy rates. The possibility of using lower spermatozoa concentration of high quality buffalo bulls for AI without reduction in pregnancy outcome can be an additional offset, especially if such spermatozoa can be sexed and used for better reproductive management in buffalo farms. Within this conceptual framework, a new artificial insemination device for semen deposition near the utero-tubal junction (UTJ) in cattle (Ghent device), developed at the University of Ghent (Belgium), has been used in this study. The Ghent device is made of disposable materials and consists of 2 hollow plastic tubes, wherein a catheter filled with semen is introduced. The outer tube is completely rigid, while the inner tube consists of a rigid caudal end and a flexible cranial tip. The outer plastic tube can move independently from the inner tube. Once the insemination device is introduced into the uterine body, the inner tube with its flexible tip is moved forward. The flexible tip makes it possible to follow the curvature of the contractile uterus of the estrous cow, but excludes the use of Cassou straws. The semen is then expelled from the catheter by means of 0.1 mL of air followed by 0.6 mL of physiological saline solution. To assess the efficacy of the new Ghent device, 67 buffalo cows (\textit{Bubalus bubalis}) were inseminated during a field trial. Two different insemination methods were used: (1) insemination with the conventional insemination device in the uterine body, and (2) insemination with the Ghent device near the utero-tubal junction ipsi-lateral to the site of ovulation. Artificial insemination was performed twice at 72 and 96 hrs after administration of prostaglandins to buffaloes bearing a functional corpus luteum as recorded during ultrasound monitoring. Conventional inseminations were performed with full (16–20 × 10^6) and half (8–10 × 10^6) insemination doses of frozen-thawed semen, while UTJ-inseminations were performed with full, half and quarter (4–5 × 10^6) insemination doses. When inseminations were performed with the conventional insemination device, halving the insemination dose resulted in a non-significant decrease of conception rates from 53% (8/15) to 42% (8/19). However, no difference in conception rates was observed when UTJ-inseminations were performed with a full, half or quarter standard insemination dose: 50% (6/12), 45% (5/11) and 50% (5/10), respectively. Despite the limited number of inseminations performed, this preliminary field trial demonstrates that the Ghent device is suitable for the insemination of buffaloes under field conditions, and that UTJ inseminations can be performed with only one-fourth of the standard insemination dose without a reduction in conception rates.