President’s Message
Darrel DeGroff, D.V.M.

“The CIDRs are coming! The CIDRs are coming!” This is the headline in a beef newsletter I just received announcing the May 1, 2002 clearance by the FDA for the use of the New Zealand produced CIDR (an intravaginal progesterone device) as a reproductive management tool for the USA cattle industry. I believe we have just finally become one of the last countries in the world to receive approval for this very effective method of estrus synchronization. I am confident that the use of this product will increase client demand for the use of both AI and ET breeding programs. Dr. Bruce Beachum of Pharmacia indicates that the final internal paperwork is being processed with an expected inventory date of May 23 to 29 which will result in orders being taken and product shipped in early June. Each CIDR will contain 1.39 gm of progesterone but is designed to deliver the same amount of hormone to the cow as the 1.9 gm CIDR presently used in other countries, is suggested to be used only once and has an expected retail cost of approximately $8.00 to $10.00 to the end user. Pharmacia’s customer service can be reached at 1-800-793-0586.

Speaking of AI and ET, a number of practitioners along with myself, have recently seen a noticeable increase in the use of AI in both purebred and commercial beef operations. Along with this fact, a few of the newly formed beef alliance programs are incorporating the use of embryo transfer technology as an integral part of their business plan in order to more rapidly produce the genetically superior breeding stock they have identified for their beef production business. All of this is good news for our association members and it is my belief that this increased use of AI and ET will continue for the foreseeable future as the beef industry strives to produce a high quality and more consistent consumer product – primarily made possible today by the increased utilization of proven genetically superior traits. Imagination has no limit when forecasting how genomic advancements, gene markers, DNA testing, sexed semen and other related new technologies may interact in the future to positively affect our industry!

Committee chairmen have reported that progress is being made on many fronts including government liaison with the EU situation, cooperator effort for exports to China, statistical computation, the

Letter from Dr. Dale Lott to all AETA Members

Hello friends and colleagues, by the grace of God, I’m still here. Dr. DeGroff asked that I write a short update on what has transpired over the last few months. First I would like to thank you all for the tremendous outpouring of concern and support for me and my family. Thanks from the bottom of my heart for the prayers, the cards, the calls and the financial contributions. My old partner, Dr. Clay Burnley, deserves special thanks for organizing my medical expense fund. It was a humbling experience for an old country boy to have. You managed to bring me to tears with your generosity.

If you haven’t heard, I’ve got multiple myeloma, which is a bone marrow cancer involving the plasma cells. I had some weakness and lack of stamina through December and January that I wrote off to advancing age, too much work and no rest. In February, I developed some shortness of breath and a low-grade fever, which I treated myself (of course none of you would do that) with antibiotics and Motrin. This landed me in the emergency room after a weekend trip to North Carolina on February 22. A sharp internal medicine doc diagnosed me the next day from my elevated protein and low albumin. I argued with him until I saw the serum electrophoresis with my IgG over 5 times normal. My oncologist suggested I go to the Arkansas Cancer Research Center in Little Rock for treatment. The ACRC is the leading institution studying myeloma, which is a relatively rare cancer. We made an appointment for 3 weeks ahead.

I rested up while colleagues across the South covered for me. After a few days, I foolishly attempted a limited comeback, which landed me back in the hospital and caused me to miss my appointment in Arkansas. A determined effort by my wife, Jo Anne, and Dr. Stan and Judy Coley, got me to Little Rock on March 21. The next week and a half was the dark time. I don’t remember a lot, but they tell me I was pretty close to leaving this world. When you are semi-comatose and wake up to see your family gathered around you, it

continued on next page

Effective Immediately
New e-mail address for the office of the American Embryo Transfer Association:
gmo@inebraska.com

Hilton Hotel
2002 AETA Convention
October 9-12, 2002
Albuquerque, New Mexico
President’s Message (continued)

2002 convention program and others. Many have included their updates in this newsletter.

Our thoughts and concerns have recently been focused on past president Dr. Dale Lott’s battle against the multiple myeloma that hospitalized him this spring. Dr. Clay Burnley has been instrumental in keeping myself and the AETA office periodically informed of Dale’s progress and I recently visited with Dale about his treatments and current health status. I found the conversation to be very “Dale” — sincere, informative, professional, thinking of others and, of course, telling jokes. His attitude and outlook about the situation is very positive to say the least and he is charging on with a very aggressive and “bull-like” determination.

Give it hell Buddy, we are all here for you! Dale’s personal comments are included in this publication.

I’m sure everyone is currently strapped to a very busy schedule but hopefully we will all manage to occasionally enjoy the summer weather, visit family and friends or take advantage of the many R & R opportunities available to us. Don’t forget to take the time to smell the alfalfa!

Letter from Dr. Dale Lott (continued)

should be a clue that something serious is going on. My cancer was a bad sonofagun that no one predicted would advance so rapidly. Chemotherapy over Easter weekend saved my life, even though the docs were split down the middle as to whether it was going to cure me or kill me. This is where I figured the good Lord wasn’t through with me yet and pulled me back, because I had little to do with it.

Since then, I’ve had another chemotherapy after which stem cells from my bone marrow were collected. As I write this, I am preparing for my third chemotherapy, which will be followed by an autotransplant of those stem cells. The chemo is crushing my cancer (blood and urine markers that the docs check are practically normal), and the stem cells will help restart my marrow with hopefully a cleaner population of cells. My cancer is very aggressive so we are being aggressive with it. If one of my brothers or sister is a match, we will do a transplant from one of them around the first of August. This allograft is much riskier, involving 35 days in isolation with a dead immune system, but shows the most hope for a long-term good prognosis with a good quality of life. We are praying for a match and will know about June 1. If the allograft is a go, we will probably move the whole family out to Little Rock for the fall. The docs say about 5 months for the whole deal if things work out.

So here we are. I always thought it would be a log truck, dump truck, or heart attack while chasing recips that had my name on it, but I’m faced with another sort of boogie. To get through something like this, you need a good attitude, support from family and friends, good doctors and faith. I think I’ve got all those. I’ve never done anything halfway, so bring it on. Bone marrow biopsies, chemo and four-hour MRIs are no fun, but have to be done. Knowing my family and friends are out there pulling for me gives me the strength to keep fighting.

It is a great honor to have been a member and officer of this organization. You are my brothers and sisters. Thanks for all you have done.

Dr. Dale Lott

AETA Committee Chairmen for 2002

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<tr>
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<td>(207) 252-272</td>
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<td>Dr. Boyd Bien</td>
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<td>Statistical Committee</td>
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AETA Office E Mail
gmo@inebraska.com

Check Out the
AETA Home Page
www.aeta.org
Government Liaison Committee Report

Progress has been extremely slow since my last report. The AETA was invited to another meeting in Washington, D.C. with the USDA. Dr. Boyd Henderson attended on behalf of the AETA Government Liaison Committee. Drs. Peter Fernandez, John Clifford, Colgrove and Morgan attended. This meeting was held immediately after Wrathall's article was published in the Veterinary Record (March 23, 2002). Jim Copper managed to get a copy faxed to us and Boyd created an economic impact statement. We were able to provide copies to all in attendance at the meeting.

Consequently, considerable time was spent on the EU ban during this meeting. Our officials are lobbying on our behalf, but in reality, this issue remains with the European Union.

The process for action follows: The OEIE Committee will review this in June 2002. Then the Standing Veterinary Committee of the EU will review the matter and make a recommendation to the European Commission. Then the Commission will consider the matter and hopefully vote. So there are three more political obstacles before the ban is lifted. I have contacted the USDA/APHIS officials again. They assure me that science will prevail...the only question is when. Patience.

That reminds me of a story. There were two rather gaunt buzzards sitting on a tree limb in the dessert. One looks at the other and says..."Patience, hell, I'm going to kill something!" Thanks to all of you for your patience. And thanks to the Committee for their help: Jim Copper, Boyd Henderson and Sam Edwards.

Richard Whitaker, DVM
Chairman, Government Liaison Committee

Addendum:

There is good news. The Scientific Steering Committee has recommended that embryos be removed from the ban. The European Commission must still act and I expect that we are still on track for the ban being lifted around July 1, as part of the permanent legislation.

---

Trade Lead

Mr. Guillermo Revuelta from Morelia, Mexico contacted USLG for information on importing beef and dairy embryos. He is interested in the following breeds:

- Beefmaster
- Brangus
- Simmental
- Charolais
- Holstein

He requested information on sexed embryos, expected percentage of successful pregnancies, embryo handling procedures, cost and the availability of technical assistance in Morelia, Mexico.

HE PREFERRED RECEIVING REPLIES IN SPANISH.

Please contact him directly and mention you were responding to an inquiry from US Livestock Genetics Export.

M. en C. Guillermo Revuelta Arreola
Street: 1 de Mayo No. 683
Zona Centro C.P. 58000
Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico
(443) 3-12-86-93 – Home Phone
(443) 3-24-02-61 – Fax
Guillermorevuelta@yahoo.com

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2002 AETA Convention • October 9-12

Listed below is a program preview for the 2002 Convention scheduled for October 9-12 at the Hilton Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Program Preview
(subject to change)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9
2:00 p.m. Certification Examination
4:30 p.m. AETA Board of Directors

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10
8:00 a.m. Golf Tournament
8:00 a.m. Exhibits Set-Up
12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m. Registration
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Bovine ET 101
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Equine ET 101
Evening
Albuquerque Balloon Festival & Fireworks Show
An event tent and BBQ dinner will be held on the site of the Albuquerque Balloon Festival.
Sponsored by AB Technology and VetPharm assisted by Reproduction Resources

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11
7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Recent Information on Regulation of Follicular Development
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Estrogen Esters to Synchronize Follicular Wave Emergence and Ovulation in CIDR-B Treated Cattle
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Coffee Break – Exhibit Area
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Joint Presentation by Drs. Wiltbank & Mapletoft
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. AETA Annual Business Meeting
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch
2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. USDA/APHIS Update

2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Recent Advances with Embryo Transfer Media and Related Technologies
Brad Lindsey
AB Technology
3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Coffee Break – Exhibit Area
3:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Practice Tips
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Proteins in Semen as Markers for Fertility
Dr. Roy Ax
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ
5:00 p.m. Social Hour – Exhibit Area
Annual Banquet

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12
7:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Genetic Markers to Predict Fertility
Dr. Roy Ax
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. John's Disease: Test Strategies and Impact on the Embryo Transfer Industry
Dr. R.H. Whitlock
University of Pennsylvania
Kennett Square, PA
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. RIV: Implications and Complications for the Cattle Industry
Dr. R.H. Whitlock
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon Retirement Planning/Tax Issues
American Express Financial Advisors
Luncheon
Dr. Boyd Henderson
Elizabethtown, PA
12:00 noon - 1:30 p.m. Practice Tips
Dr. Boyd Henderson
1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Coffee Break
Dr. Boyd Henderson
2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Certification Committee
Dr. Scott Armbrust
Survey Discussion
5:00 p.m. Adjournment

Sandia Peak Tramway
The world's longest single-span aerial tramway, the Sandia Peak Tram, whiskles passengers up 2.7 miles of cable to the 10,000 foot Sandia Peak. In biological terms, this is like going from Mexico to Canada in 20 minutes. Wildlife such as mule deer and black bears sometimes appear on the slopes below the noiseless tramcar. At the top, enjoy the 11,000 square mile view, explore hiking trails, ride the Sandia Peak ski lift, or experience sunset dining at the restaurant perched on the top of the mountain. Just minutes from downtown Albuquerque.

Albuquerque's Old Town Plaza
The Villa Real of Albuquerque was founded around the customary Spanish style plaza in 1706, making it one of the oldest inland cities in North America. Named after a Spanish Duke, Albuquerque is still called the "Duke City." Stroll under the shady trees on the plaza, explore shops and restaurants tucked in picturesque alleyways, or enjoy live entertainment at the Plaza's gazebo.
Visit the NCVEI’s Online “Exam Room” to See if Your Practice
Gets a Clean Bill of Health

The National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues (NCVEI) has introduced new benchmarking and pricing tools to the veterinary profession. NCVEI extends a personal invitation to all veterinarians to pay a visit to their website, www.ncviel.org and take a tour of the new "Exam Room."

Inside the "Exam Room" veterinarians will find analytical tools that help them take the pulse of their practice and learn how to improve its financial health.

The cleverly designed website is easy to navigate and fun to use. After initially registering as a "new patient," visitors to the “Exam Room” will have the opportunity to interact with the website through a routine “check-up” of their hospital’s business practices by entering information on items such as pricing, costs and product mix.

Howard Rubin, Chief Executive Officer of the NCVEI explains, “There is no need for veterinarians to have his or her tax returns, financial statements and price list committed to memory in order to get started. They can input as much or as little information as they have available and still be provided with a comprehensive evaluation of the practice.”

At the end of each “examination” the veterinarian will be provided with immediate feedback through the use of charts and graphs, detailing how the health of the practice compares to similar practices.

A small sampling of the tools includes:

- Will my fees keep me afloat? See how your pricing compares to other veterinarians both locally and nationally.
- Do I have enough income coming in? Find out how the average for the entire practice compares to others in the profession.
- Do my clients like me? See data that indicates how well you’re retaining patients.

The Pricing Tool will assist veterinarians in establishing value-oriented prices for services offered. In the past, pricing decisions were often driven by discreet phone calls to neighboring veterinary practices. This new model will not only offer the veterinary profession a modern, analytical method of determining appropriate pricing, but will allow users to walk through a goal setting process which will demonstrate how adjusting service mix and pricing can achieve targets set by the practice.

The Benchmarking Model will help identify existing problems with business procedures used by the clinic and suggest changes to remedy the problems. It will also show tips to achieve superior performance levels and teach which business practices need to be adopted in order to be as good as the best.

These tools not only identify problems, they provided commentary and testimonials on how the problems can be addressed.

Over the past year, the NCVEI has identified and prioritized the key issues that need to be addressed in order to improve the economic status of the veterinary profession.

The NCVEI is also currently working on a series of comprehensive Skills, Knowledge, Aptitude and Attitude projects that include the Personal Decisions International Project (PDI) which will help identify and define core competencies contributing to success in the veterinary profession.

While these activities have been key starting points for the NCVEI, other issues are equally important and will be the focus of future projects. These issues include Staff Utilization and Retention and Capturing of Charges.

Does your practice have a clean bill of health? Should your practice grow? What can you do to offer your patients the best technology available?

Canadian Embryo Transfer Association (CETA) / Association Canadienne de Transfert d'Embryons (ACTE)

Annual Scientific Convention
August 23-25, 2002
Loews Le Concorde Hotel, Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Friday, August 23
All day – Golf Tournament at ‘Club de Golf St-Laurent’
Afternoon Session:
- ET 101
  - Presented by: Dr. Roger Sauge, Clinique Vet. St-Louis – Embryobec, St-Louis de Gonzague, Quebec & Dr. Mario Lefort, Clinique Vet. Orléansville, Orléansville, Quebec
Early Evening – President’s Reception

Saturday, August 24
Early morning – Jog/Run on the Plains of Abraham
Sessions:
- Superovulation & CIDR Protocols
  - Presented by: Dr. John Kastelic, Lethbridge Research Center, Lethbridge, Alberta
- Canadian preparedness for an FMD outbreak and the lessons we can learn from Europe
  - Presented by: Dr. Sarah Kahn, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ottawa, Ontario
- Where does Canada stand in relation with export of embryos and live cattle to the EU?
  - Presented by: Dr. Alain Moreau, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ottawa, Ontario
- Embryo Production using IVF on Prepubertal Heifers
  - Presented by: Dr. Daniel Bouguet, L’Alliance Boviteq, St-Hyacinthe, Quebec

Sunday, August 25
Sessions:
- Cattle eggs in-vitro & in-vitro
  - Presented by: Dr. Torben Greve, Royal Veterinary and Agriculture University, Frederiksborg, Denmark
- The Applications of Genomics to Bovine Embryos & Oocytes
  - Presented by: Dr. Marc-André Sirard, Université Laval, Quebec City, Quebec
- Uterine Disease in Dairy Cows
  - Presented by: Dr. Ram Kasimanickam, Ontario Veterinary College, Guelph, Ontario
- The Reproduction-Nutrition Interface, ‘Fat is where it’s at’
  - Presented by: Dr. Bruce Murphy, University of Montreal, St-Hyacinthe, Quebec
- Metabolic profile of cows subjected to superovulation and their embryo production
  - Prepared by: Dr. Armand Tremblay & Dr. Yvonnes Chorfi, University of Montreal, St-Hyacinthe, Quebec
- Panel Discussion – ET Short Presentations

For more information or a registration package:
Please contact the CETA/ACTE office
Box 2000, Kemptville, ONTARIO, CANADA K0G 1J0
Phone: 613-258-5944 • Fax: 613-258-3719
Email: ceta@ebi.ca • Website: www.ceta.ca
When PETA Makes a Visit

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is introducing a new character to influence children, “Kernel Corn.” Kernel Corn is a 7-foot tall corn cob wearing a colonel’s hat who plans to talk to kids after school and hand out information to “counteract the meat, egg and dairy industries’ in-school propaganda,” according to a PETA news release.

Dan Murphy of www.Meaningplace.com, writes that PETA has already taken its no-meat message to local schools in Kansas City, Omaha, Des Moines and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. As of the end of January, PETA’s message is that meat, eggs and dairy foods are linked to everything from “pimples, obesity and excess mucus to heart attacks, stroke, diabetes and some cancers.”

Although special interest groups are not allowed on school grounds without permission, PETA people often distribute their information to students just beyond school perimeters. In a number of cases, children have been frightened by the PETA mascots and the often confrontational approach used.

Key information about PETA

The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association offers these points:

- Don’t be fooled; PETA isn't interested in kids or nutrition. It is making inaccurate and misleading statements about meat, milk and eggs to further an extreme animal rights agenda.

- PETA’s bottom line objective is that there should be no human use of animals for any purpose – not for food or clothing, vital medical research or for companionship. No dogs, cats, birds, gerbils for pets or for education or entertainment. No zoos, no Sea Worlds, no circuses and no horse races. No animals to be used for work or pleasure, including no guide dogs for the blind and no police dogs for rescue, security or safety. No horseback riding, no hunting dogs, no dog or cat shows and no fishing.

- PETA’s nutritional advice does not follow current government guidelines or the recommendations of other reputable health and nutrition groups, including the American Dietetic Association, the National Institutes of Health, the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

- Sensationalism – not science – guides PETA. Its information only serves to confuse kids and make it more challenging for physicians, dietitians, nurses and government advisers to promote the science-based nutrition that kids and parents need.

- Targeting kids who need to develop healthy eating habits is irresponsible and dangerous. It is important that children eat foods from all five major food groups for proper growth and development.

- Foods in the meat group contribute more than 16% of the iron and more than 41% of the zinc in the nation’s food supply. Iron and zinc are particularly important for children to do well in school. Researchers have discovered a connection between school children suffering from iron deficiency and poor performance on IQ and achievement tests. Zinc deficiency is associated with decreased attention span, learning ability, short-term memory and problem-solving skills. Added zinc in the diet helps school-age children improve recognition memory, reasoning, psycho-motor functions and attention.

Miniflush™ Embryo Recovery System, media, flushing catheters, and other ET supplies and equipment also available.
New or Used CIDR-B Devices and Estradiol Benzoate, With or Without Progesterone, for Fixed-Time AI in Beef Cattle

P.R. Whittaker¹, M.G. Colazo¹, M.F. Martinez¹, J.P. Kastelic¹, and R.J. Mapleton¹

¹WCVM, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 5B4, Canada; ²Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Research Centre, Lethbridge, AB, T1J 4B1, Canada

Three experiments were conducted to evaluate the efficacy of new or used CIDR-B devices in conjunction with estradiol for fixed-time AI programs in beef cattle. In addition, the efficacy of including progesterone (P4) with the first injection of estradiol benzoate (EB) and the effect of the interval from the second injection of EB to AI were also investigated. In Experiment 1, lactating beef cows received either new (n=247) or once-used (n=144) CIDR-B devices (Vetrepharm Can Inc, Belleville, ON, Canada) and were randomly allocated to concurrently (Day 0) receive intravenous injections of: 2 mg EB (Sigma Chemical Co, St. Louis, MO, USA) (n=130); 2 mg EB + 50 mg P4 (Sigma Chemical Co; n=122); or 2 mg EB + 100 mg P4 (n=139). All cows received 375 µg im cloprostenol (Estrumate, Schering Canada Inc, Pointe-Claire, QC, Canada) at CIDR-B removal (Day 7), 1 mg im EB on Day 8, and were inseminated 23 to 33.5 h later. Calving rates did not differ (P=0.2) between new and used CIDR-B (39 and 45%, respectively), but tended to be higher (P<0.1) for EB alone (43%) and EB + 100 mg P4 (46%) than for EB + 50 mg P4 (34%). Numerically more cows inseminated late (from 29.5 to 33.5 h after EB treatment) calved to fixed-time AI (58/128, 45%; P=0.3), and cows inseminated early (from 23 to 26 h after EB treatment; n=124) tended to have more bull calves (57%; P=0.1). In Experiment 2, lactating beef cows received either new (n=86) or once-used autoclaved (n=89) CIDR-B devices (on Day 0) and were concurrently treated with either 2 mg EB + 100 mg P4 (n=88) or 2 mg EB (n=87) in a 2x2 factorial design. All cows received 25 mg dinoprost (Lutalyse, Pharmacia & Upjohn Animal Health, Orangeville, ON, Canada) at the time of CIDR-B removal (Day 7), 1 mg EB on Day 8, and were inseminated 28 to 32 h after EB. The incidence of CIDR-B loss was higher in cows given once-used versus new devices (789 vs 0.76; P<0.01). Pregnancy rates (determined by ultrasonography on Day 28 post-AI) did not differ among treatments (Mantel-Haenszel Chi-square test; 62% vs 73% for new vs once-used CIDR-B devices, P=0.1; 70% vs 64% for EB + P4 vs EB, P=0.4). In Experiment 3, beef cows (n=105) and heifers (n=32) were treated once- or twice-used autoclaved CIDR-B devices and 1 mg EB or 1 mg EB + 100 mg P4 im on Day 0 (2x2 factorial design). Cattle received im 500 µg cloprostenol at CIDR-B removal (Day 7), 1 mg EB on Day 8, and were artificially inseminated on Day 9 (28 to 30 h after EB). Ultrasonography was done on Day 0 and Day 39 to determine stage of the estrous cycle and pregnancy rates, respectively. Pregnancy rates were not different between once- vs twice-used CIDR-B devices (62/68, 48% vs 31/71, 44%; P=0.5) nor between EB with or without P4 (33/69, 48% vs 30/68, 44%; P=0.6). Moreover, the inclusion of P4 did not improve (P=0.2) pregnancy rates in cattle in proestrus or metestrus at the beginning of treatment (EB + P4, 13/27, 48% EB, 12/18, 66%). In conclusion, once- or twice-used autoclaved CIDR-B devices were as efficacious as new devices to synchronize cattle for fixed-time AI and the addition of 100 mg of P4 to the EB injection (at CIDR-B insertion) did not improve pregnancy rate. However, the interval from EB treatment to AI may influence sex ratios of resulting offspring.

Theriogenology, January 1, 2002, Vol. 57, No. 1, page 301
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FARAD Funding Improves in 2002

In November 2001, Congress approved $800,000 for the Food Animal Residue Avoidance Databank—the single largest appropriation in the program’s 18-year history—part of the $75.9 billion agriculture appropriations package in fiscal 2002.

FARAD is a computer-based decision support system designed to provide livestock producers, extension specialists and veterinarians with information about how to avoid drug, pesticide and environmental contaminant problems in food animals. The program explains which drugs can legally be used in food animals, while also helping ensure that producers are in compliance with the drug tolerances and withdrawal times established by FDA.

The veterinary institutes at the universities of Florida, California-Davis and North Carolina State coordinate FARAD. Florida maintains the database, while the other universities field queries through the FARAD website and toll-free hotline.

Although FARAD is recognized as contributing to humane food animal production and a safe food supply, the inability to secure adequate annual funding had resulted in serious cuts in the program’s operation.

The program was started in 1982 by USDA on an experimental basis. Support for FARAD has come through annual merit-review grants matched to in-kind support provided by the three universities. An estimated $200,000 has been directed to FARAD annually since its inception—well below the needed $600,000 except in 1999, when funding was increased to $500,000, but for that year only.

In real dollar value, however, federal support has actually dropped by more than 50%.

In 2000, FARAD was moved to the Integrated Research, Education and Extension Competitive Grants Program. The reviewers acknowledged that FARAD was necessary but did not see the national food safety program fitting into a competitive program. Funding was denied and it looked as if FARAD were finished. But a last-minute appropriation of $250,000 for fiscal 2001 and subsidies from participating universities kept it on life support for one more year.

Following the funding problems for 2001, the AVMA, along with FARAD directors at the three universities, lobbied select legislators to support a line item in the 2002 budget for $1 million for the food safety program. Although the appropriation is below the requested level, Dr. Riviere said it is enough to bring on additional staff who can answer nonemergency calls.

JAVMA, January 1, 2002
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Effect of Different Estrogen and Progestogen Treatments on Superovulatory Response in Beef and Dairy Cattle

M. Nigro¹, E. Burry¹, M.L. Villata²,² and G.A. Bo²
¹Burry y Nigro Transferencia de Embiones, La Plata, Argentina, ²Instituto de Reproduccion Animal Cordoba (IRAC), Cordoba, Argentina, ²Agencia Cordoba Ciencia, Argentina

Traditional superovulation programs have utilized FSH treatments beginning 8 to 12 d after estrus. These programs require a large time commitment and are inefficient at controlling follicular wave development. Alternatively, treatments with estradiol and progestogen/progesterone devices (P4) at unknown stages of the estrous cycle have resulted in synchronous emergence of a new follicular wave and in comparable superovulatory responses to treatments initiated at the time of spontaneous wave emergence. The aim of the present study was to evaluate the embryo production in a commercial embryo transfer program in which beef (British and Continental breeds) and dairy (Holstein) cows were superstimulated using three different P4 and estradiol treatments over a 4 yr period (1996 to 2000). Cows in the Traditional treatment group were superstimulated beginning 8 to 12 d after estrus. Cows in the E17β+CIDR group received a CIDR-B (Boehringer-Ingelheim, Argentina) combined with 5 mg estradiol-17β plus 100 mg P4 in (Lab. Rio de Janeiro, Argentina) at unknown stages of the estrous cycle (Day 0) and were superstimulated 5 d later. Cows in the EV-SMB group received 2 Syncro-Mate-B ear implants (Merital, Argentina) and 5 mg estradiol valerate plus 3 mg norgestomet im on Day 0 and were superstimulated 5 d later. Finally, cows in the EV-CIDR group were treated as cows in the EV-SMB group except that the SMB implants were replaced by a CIDR device. Superstimulatory treatments consisted of a total dose of 320 mg (beef cows) or 400 mg (dairy cows) NIH-FSH-P1 of Follitropin-V (Vetpharm Canada Inc., Canada) in twice daily im injections over 4 d. Delprostenate (800 µg, Glandinex, Lab. Universal, Uruguay) was given im 48 h after the first Follitropin-V injection and CIDR or SMB devices were removed 12 h later. Cows were AI 12 and 24 h after the onset of estrus. Ova/embryos were collected non-surgically 7 d later and classified as total ova/embryos collected and transferable embryos, following IETS standards. Quantitative data were analyzed by ANOVA and proportions of viable embryos were compared using Chi-square test. There was no significant year effect (P>0.1). Although the number of total ova/embryos collected in beef cows was higher (P<0.05) in the EV+SMB group than in the E17β+CIDR and the Traditional groups, the proportion of transferable embryos was higher (P<0.05) in the E17β+CIDR group than all the other treatments. Among dairy cows, the number of embryos collected did not differ (P>0.1), but the proportion of transferable embryos in the E17β+CIDR group was higher (P>0.05) than the EV+CIDR group. Results suggest that donors can be successfully superovulated using estradiol and progestogen treatments, without the necessity of estrus detection and the use of E17β+CIDR was associated with an improvement in ova/embryo quality.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treatment</th>
<th>Traditional</th>
<th>E17β+CIDR</th>
<th>EV+CIDR</th>
<th>EV+SMB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dairy (n)</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ova/emb.</td>
<td>8.9±0.4</td>
<td>10.3±0.5</td>
<td>10.2±0.9</td>
<td>11.4±0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transf. emb.</td>
<td>6.1±0.3</td>
<td>6.0±0.4</td>
<td>5.6±0.7</td>
<td>6.1±0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Transf. emb.</td>
<td>58.1±</td>
<td>57.9±</td>
<td>54.4±</td>
<td>53.7±</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef (n)</td>
<td>945</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total ova/emb.</td>
<td>13.4±0.3</td>
<td>12.6±0.9</td>
<td>14.5±0.6</td>
<td>16.4±1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transf. emb.</td>
<td>6.9±0.2</td>
<td>7.3±0.6</td>
<td>6.7±0.4</td>
<td>6.5±0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Transf. emb.</td>
<td>51.5±</td>
<td>58.3±</td>
<td>45.8±</td>
<td>39.9±</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Means (± SEM) or percentages with superscripts not in common are different (P<0.05).

Theriogenology, January 1, 2002, Vol. 57, No. 1, Page 769

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Dr. Jim West of Waverly, Iowa Honored as “Distinguished Graduate” at the 2002 Iowa State University Dairy Science Banquet

Dr. Jim West of Westwood Embryo Services, Waverly, Iowa, was honored on March 3 in Ames, Iowa as the “Distinguished Graduate” at the 2002 Iowa State University Dairy Science Banquet. Dr. West graduated from Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1971 and started Westwood Embryo Services, a company that provides embryo transfer and dairy herd health services in Iowa and Minnesota, in 1979. In addition to providing transplant services, his company has worked to help dairymen develop both foreign and domestic markets for embryos. In 1984, Westwood Embryo Services made their first foreign embryo sale taking a group of fresh embryos to Holland. By 1985, the company was shipping frozen embryos to several countries in Western Europe. Currently they are exporting embryos to fourteen countries on four continents.

Dr. West and his wife, Mary, have two daughters, Heather, who is on the faculty of ISU College of Veterinary Medicine and Anne who is a law student at the University of Iowa.
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