President’s Message • Randall H. Ilinshaw, D.V.M.

I have just returned from the AETA board of directors meeting. We spent a day doing the business of the AETA and accomplished quite a lot.

The new committee appointments have been made and I appreciate all of you who have volunteered your time to help the association in the past and present. One of the charges of the board was to try and get “new blood” in the committees and chairs. It is a good way for members to get more involved in their association. If you would like to serve, feel free to contact any board member, committee chairman, or me.

The Certification Committee met for a day prior to the board of directors meeting. Dr. Joe Wright and his committee looked at the exam and updated it. They recommended changing the minimal requirements for certification eligibility. Each applicant must now do 50 embryo recoveries of superovulated females and handle 250 embryos of which at least 100 were transferred and 100 were frozen within the last 12 months. He promised in the future the required certification hour would be more educational. Everyone should be receiving in the mail a laminated example of proper labeling as well as embryo morphology. Thanks to all of the hard work this committee is doing.

Dr. Larry Kennel and the Convention Committee are putting together an excellent program with the Canadians in Calgary this fall. The scientific program is not yet complete, so if you have any ideas let Larry know. Roger Davis has promised that the social and non-scientific parts will be unforgettable. Future sites were considered and it looks like Tampa for 2004 is leading the pack.

Dr. Darrel DeGroff reported on the China Quality Samples Program. It looks as if we will get another grant with the aid of United States Livestock Genetic Export, Inc. for a second trip to transfer embryos and give seminars this spring in China. Dr. Scott Armbrust and the Cooperator Committee are working diligently to try and open the China market to U.S. embryos. Hopefully, in the future many of our members will be exporting embryos to China.

Darrel also attended the IETS in Auckland, New Zealand on behalf of the AETA. He was present at the Health and Safety Advisory Committee (HASAC) meetings. HASAC has regulatory, forms and certification, and food safety subcommittees that deal with all of these issues. It is important that the AETA maintain a presence at the IETS.

On a more serious note, Don Ellerbee’s wife, Karen, had been hospitalized but is now home. We hope for her a speedy and full recovery.

As you know by now, the AETA has lost a former president and good friend in Dr. Dale Lott. Dale passed away in the early morning hours of February 3rd after a valiant fight against multiple myeloma. I first met Dale when we were freshmen in veterinary school at the University of Georgia in the fall of 1977. You have many classmates but a few always stand apart from the crowd. Dale was one of those. His easy-going attitude and fun-loving nature sometimes hid his intelligence and unbelievable drive to do things the right way. He has gone on to a better place, but all of us will miss him.

Life is precious and we should never take it for granted. Let’s all keep Dale’s family and the Ellerbee’s in our thoughts and prayers.

Dina Michel
Administrative Assistant

I am happy to announce the appointment of Dina Michel as Administrative Assistant for the American Embryo Transfer Association. Dina joined GMO on January 20, 2003. She comes to GMO and the AETA with outstanding credentials. She has been busy learning all the responsibilities associated with her position and has caught on very quickly. She is very enthusiastic and eager to learn more about the AETA functions and activities.

She is very adept as far as computers are concerned and has an excellent background in this area. Our plans are to have her on-line with her new computer very shortly, with her own e-mail address so that the membership can contact her direct via e-mail if necessary. We feel very fortunate that Dina has this computer knowledge and training as it will no doubt be of great benefit to the AETA.

Dina and her husband have two children, a girl and boy both in grade school. Some of you have already had the opportunity to meet Dina on the phone and those of you that haven’t, but will in the future, please give her a warm welcome to the AETA team. You will find she is very pleasant to work with and eager to be of assistance to the membership.

2003 AETA/CETA Convention
Westín Hotel
September 3-6, 2003
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Leptin: The Key to Beef Heifer Puberty and Its Enhancement by Monensin* 

Jerome Baker, MS PhD PAS, Coastal Plain Experiment Station, College of Agriculture and Environmental Science, The University of Georgia, Tifton, Georgia 31793.

Dan T. Brown, MS PhD, College of Agriculture and Environmental Science, The University of Georgia, Blairsville, Georgia.

Mel Pence, DVM MS PAS, Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory and Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery, College of Veterinary Medicine, The University of Georgia, Tifton, Georgia 31793.

Rhonda Vann, MS PhD PAS, CMREC, Mississippi State University, Raymond, MS 39154.

Duane H. Keisler, PhD, Department of Animal Science, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri 65211.


Introduction

Leptin is being investigated as a necessary component to attain reproductive efficiency in beef cattle. The effect of feeding monensin on leptin levels at puberty sheds light on the mechanism of action of leptin. Cows that calve early in the breeding season or have a calving interval of twelve months or less are more profitable than cows with longer calving intervals. For each 21-day heat-cycle a cow is late calving, her calf will weigh about 40 lbs. less at weaning. Cows that calve early in the breeding season as heifers will be more likely to calve early as cows, and in order for heifers to calve early, they must reach puberty early. The selection and management of replacement heifers influences the reproductive efficiency of the cattle industry by optimizing age at puberty. Heifers that mature sexually at an early age are more likely to settle earlier in a controlled breeding season and wean a heavier calf. These heifers tend to settle early each breeding season for the rest of their reproductive lives and have heavier weaning weights throughout their lifetime.

With this economic value placed on reproduction, ways to measure, improve and predict reproductive efficiency in cattle are critically important. Age, nutritional status and genetics are factors that control the onset of puberty in beef heifers. Nutritional status of beef heifers and reproduction are intimately related. A target weight of 65% of mature weight at breeding is critical for a successful breeding program. Monensin is an ionophore feed supplement used to increase weight gain and decrease age at puberty in beef and dairy heifers. The mechanism of action to decrease age at puberty has not been fully determined. Pre-pubertal heifers fed monensin produced larger corpora lutea, larger follicles and exhibited increased response to administration of gonadotropins compared to control heifers fed to achieve equal weight gains.

Leptin is a peptide produced by adipocytes, released into the serum, and crosses the blood-brain barrier where it attaches to receptor sites, initiating a cascade of events that result in altered appetite and initiation of puberty in pre-pubertal animals. Increases in nutritional levels and energy reserves of cattle results in increased serum leptin. In addition, monensin has been shown to increase the transport of leptin across the blood brain barrier. Leptin attachment to receptor sites in the hypothalamus affects the production and/or release of neurotransmitter neuropeptide Y and subsequently affects the control of luteinizing hormone, insulin and growth hormone.

Luteinizing hormone production and pulse frequency are the keys to initiating puberty in heifers. Thus, leptin appears to be a key element in partitioning of energy resources in direct response to energy availability. Energy partitioning in the bovine allocates available energy first to body maintenance, and as more energy becomes available, to growth, then to lactation and lastly to reproduction. Fat reserves accumulate as energy becomes abundant. The production of leptin by adipocytes affects leptin concentration at the neuro-receptor site level, and that determines how energy resources are partitioned. If this concept is accurate, then a threshold level of leptin, greater than that required to maintain body homeostasis and provide for growth, must be available to initiate the onset of puberty in beef heifers.

Materials and Methods

Ninety 10 to 12-month-old, nulliparous heifers were divided into three feed management groups. Each of these groups received different supplemental feed as well as free choice silage and grazing (see Table 1). Within each feed management group one-half of the heifers were randomly assigned to be given free choice mineral containing 1629 grams of monensin per ton, and the second half were the control group given the same mineral with no monensin. Paired groups were placed in matching pastures. The rate of mineral utilization resulted in an average consumption of 105 mg monensin per heifer per day for those heifers receiving monensin, versus no monensin, for the control groups. During a 114-day feeding trial, weight, serum leptin levels and reproductive tract scores were determined.

*continued on next page.
Leptin: The Key to Beef Heifer Puberty and Its Enhancement by Monensin* continued

**Results and Conclusions**

Based on the information described above, it seems reasonable to propose that the decrease in age of puberty in heifers fed monensin may be partly associated with an effect of monensin on serum leptin and/or the ability of monensin to facilitate the transport of leptin across the blood-brain barrier. Heifers fed monensin gained weight more rapidly and attained higher serum leptin levels. The heifers fed monensin gained an average of 17.47 lbs. more during the 114-day trial (P=.0001). Leptin levels increased over time as the cattle gained more weight and the rate of leptin increase was greater for the heifers fed monensin by 1.88 ng/ml as compared to control heifers during the 114-day feeding trial (P=.0010) (see Table 2). The increased weight gain appears to be due to increased adipose tissue, resulting in increased leptin production. Since leptin has such a profound impact on age at puberty, the inference is that feeding monensin decreases age at puberty in developing beef heifers. The heifers fed monensin attained a three-plus reproductive tract score (RTS) (attained puberty) when the serum leptin level reached 6.5 ng/ml, while the control heifers did not reach a RTS of three-plus until serum leptin levels reached 11.8 ng/ml. These data indicate that a threshold level of leptin is necessary for a beef heifer to attain puberty, and this threshold level can be reduced by feeding monensin. The mechanism for reducing the threshold may be due to the ability of monensin to transport leptin across the blood-brain barrier and/or an increase in leptin production from increased adipose tissue. Monensin consumption was only 105 mg per heifer per day. That is approximately one-half of the recommended dose for developing beef heifers.

**Acknowledgements**

The authors gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Joe Garner and the personnel at the UGA, Georgia Mountain Experiment Station, Blairsville, GA.

*Rumensin*, Elanco Animal Health, Eli Lilly Co., Indianapolis, IN.

**Table 1.** Feed management groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 1a</th>
<th>1% body weight dry corn gluten per day with monensin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group 1b</td>
<td>1% body weight dry corn gluten per day with no monensin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2a</td>
<td>1% body weight corn and soybean meal per day with monensin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2b</td>
<td>1% body weight corn and soybean meal per day with no monensin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 3a</td>
<td>1% body weight corn per day with monensin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 3b</td>
<td>1% body weight corn per day with no monensin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2.** Mean Weight Gains with SD and Mean Leptin Changes with SD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monensin 114-day feeding trial</th>
<th>Weight gain (lb)</th>
<th>SD wt gain (lb)</th>
<th>Leptin (ng/ml) change</th>
<th>SD Leptin (ng/ml) change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>During 114 day test</td>
<td>During 114 day test</td>
<td>During 114 day test</td>
<td>During 114 day test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 4 Sil/Glu/No Monensin</td>
<td>260.60</td>
<td>23.15</td>
<td>7.01</td>
<td>2.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 5 Sil/Corn/SBM/No Monensin</td>
<td>266.60</td>
<td>22.45</td>
<td>6.18</td>
<td>3.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 8 Sil/Corn/No Monensin</td>
<td>235.05</td>
<td>27.94</td>
<td>3.15</td>
<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 9 Sil/Glu/No Monensin</td>
<td>250.60</td>
<td>35.68</td>
<td>3.76</td>
<td>2.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average No Monensin</td>
<td>272.91</td>
<td>27.30</td>
<td>5.93</td>
<td>2.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 3 Sil/Glu/Monensin</td>
<td>274.75</td>
<td>41.97</td>
<td>6.44</td>
<td>2.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 6 Sil/Corn/SBM/Monensin</td>
<td>269.25</td>
<td>38.13</td>
<td>7.57</td>
<td>2.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 7 Sil/Corn/Monensin</td>
<td>232.32</td>
<td>31.12</td>
<td>7.46</td>
<td>2.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lot 10 Sil/Glu/Monensin</td>
<td>285.20</td>
<td>32.88</td>
<td>6.17</td>
<td>2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average with Monensin</td>
<td>270.38</td>
<td>36.02</td>
<td>6.91</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Call for Panel Discussion Participants**

I hope everyone is planning to attend our 2003 annual convention in Calgary. I am really looking forward to joining our Canadian colleagues for a great meeting.

Our meeting will again include a panel discussion. We are asking for volunteers to submit ideas for 5-minute presentations of original research or retrospective studies of data generated in your own practices. Topics could include data on E.G. freezing and transfers, synchronization programs, FSH schedules, time between superovulations, or any other topics you think would be of interest to our membership.

The AETA and CETA program committees will then choose 3-5 presentations to be included in the panel discussion. We will also ask a moderator to help direct the discussion and field questions from the membership.

Please submit ideas to the program committee:

Larry Keneel • 717-653-4825 • lkvdvm@juno.com
Steve Malin • 920-921-1231 • malin@spiritusa.net
Steve Vredenburg • 503-324-6060 • sdvm2009@yahoo.com

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**Trade Lead**

Hello from Russian beef farmer Andrei Davydov!
Thank you for your attention.
I’d like to ask some questions.
I interest about an opportunity for me and my friends here in Russia to receive your assistance.
May I buy around 200 embryos from US?
It can be I guess Hereford and Angus embryos.
And I’d like to invite a specialist for make a transfer business here in Russia for few weeks period.
So may I ask you about an average price for 1 embryo and cost of the service for some weeks traveling to my country?
Is it possible in principle or not?
And any of your ideas are very welcome.
Thank you again.
All the best for your business.
Andrei Davydov, Dik farm LTD., Russia. +7 0842 73.35.89; cell +7 902 683.94.68. http://www.dik.kahuga.ru
Effect of Dose of GnRH Used in the Ovsynch System on AI Pregnancy Rates in Beef Cows

W. Dee Whittier, DVM, MS; John B. Hall, MS, PhD; Amanda Britt, BS; Mark Cline, MS VA-MD Reg. College of Vet. Med and Dept. of Animal and Poultry Sci. (Hall and Cline), Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, VA 24061


Introduction

 Estrous synchronization advances have the potential to dramatically increase the utilization of artificial insemination (AI) in beef cattle operations. Ultimately, the level of usefulness of these programs and AI in general will be the cost effectiveness of programs which are developed. Programs involving the use of GnRH and prostaglandins have been reported that allow for acceptable pregnancy rates using timed insemination and thus dramatically reducing handling, a significant deterrent to AI in beef cattle. One such scheme, Ovsynch, has utilized 100mg of GnRH for each of two injections in the scheme. Research conducted with dairy cattle has suggested that 50 mg GnRH provides similar pregnancy rate outcomes. Beef cow reproduction is significantly different than dairy reproduction due to different body composition, lactational demands and typical nutritional provision. If a lower dose of GnRH produces similar pregnancy outcomes, a significant economic advantage to the program would result. This trial was designed to compare the outcome of the four different combinations of 50 mg and 100 mg of GnRH in Ovsynch protocols.

Materials and Methods

Eight hundred-sixty (860) cows from eight correctional center farms were synchronized by the Ovsynch method. This entailed an initial injection of GnRH followed in 7 d with 25 mg of prostaglandin. A second injection of GnRH was administered 48 hours later. The following dosages of GnRH (Cystorelin®) were utilized: 50 mg/50 mg, 50 mg/100 mg, 100 mg/50 mg, 100 mg/100 mg for initial and second GnRH injections, respectively. Treatments were blocked for days postpartum. Following the prostaglandin injection, estrous detection was performed twice daily. Tail paint was used as an aid to detection. Cows detected in estrus prior to the second GnRH injection were bred 12 h after estrus. All cows not detected in estrus were mass inseminated 14 to 18 h after the second GnRH treatment. All cows were examined via ultrasound for pregnancy between d 45 and d 75 post-insemination.

Results

Dose of GnRH did not affect synchronized pregnancy rates (P>0.5). Considerable interaction occurred among location and dosage pattern of GnRH. Variability in AI pregnancy rate appeared to be diminished when the 100 mg dose of GnRH was used at the second injection. Dosage of GnRH at the initial injection did not alter the number of cows exhibiting estrus before timed AI. Pregnancy rate in cows bred early was not affected by the initial dose of GnRH. Pregnancy rates in cows bred by timed AI were similar to those in cows bred 12 h after detected estrus.

Conclusions

Using 50 mg of GnRH appears to be effective in an Ovsynch program for beef cattle.

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Therese Kehoe to Retire

Therese Kehoe, bookkeeper and office manager for GMO, Inc., will retire as of April 1st, 2003. She has been associated with GMO (formally Garey Management Organization) for thirty-six years. She started with Bob Garey, president of Garey Management Organization in November of 1966, as bookkeeper and office manager and has retained that position throughout the transition of Bob Garey to Don Ellerbee.

Therese has been responsible for all the financial records of the various associations managed by Garey Management and GMO, as well as the corporate records for GMO. Therese tells the story that Bob called her one day back in 1966 to help him get a mess straightened out caused by the bookkeeper he had just fired. She agreed to help him and ended up staying for a total of thirty-six years.

She has been a tremendous asset to GMO these past eighteen years and everyone is going to miss her enormously. If ever there was a question regarding finances that I didn't have the answer on the tip of my tongue, Therese had the answer. She has certainly been my “girl Friday,” and will never know how much I appreciate her diligence and dedication to this company and all the associations that we serve.

Her husband, Monty, retired as Chief of the Hastings Fire Department several years ago and has been active in serving on the Adams County Board of Supervisors since his retirement. He is a model train enthusiast and has a layout in their basement that is second to none. He’s getting ready to spend more time with his trains as soon as his term expires on the county board and wants Therese to be able to travel with him when he goes to all his train conventions. She’s not certain that’s her cup of tea, but can always tag along to go shopping. She also tells me that she has some plans for the two of them to do some other traveling which will not include train conventions.

I want to wish Therese the very best in her retirement as she has certainly earned the time to stop and “smell the roses.” Thank you, Therese, for all you’ve done. You are truly a “jewel,” and we will miss you very much.

Don Ellerbee

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Thank You

Thank you so much for the lovely floral arrangement you sent during my hospitalization the second week of January in Omaha. My surgery went well and your flowers helped to brighten my surroundings. I appreciate your warm wishes and thoughtfulness.

Karen Ellerbee
Dr. Dale Lott Remembered

As previously reported, Dr. Dale Lott of Athens, GA, died during the early hours of February 3, 2003, from multiple myeloma cancer. Dr. Lott was very active in the AETA, serving on several committees, board of directors, and was President of the AETA in 1997-1998. He had a unique ability to turn a very serious board meeting into one that was relaxed, productive and effective just by telling one of his many stories or tales. He loved to tell stories and could do so for hours, keeping everyone in stitches.

Dr. Lott was a very compassionate and caring person, willing to help his fellow practitioners whenever or wherever needed. He truly loved three things in life: (1) his family; (2) embryo transfer; (3) University of Georgia football. When you first met Dr. Lott, you really weren’t just certain how to take him. Your first impression was he was somewhat of a “goof-ball.” But after you came to know him, you knew that was not the case at all. He was a very intelligent person, but at the same time fun loving and easy going.

Memorial services were held for Dr. Lott at The Botanical Gardens Day Chapel in Athens, located near the University of GA Campus on February 13, 2003, at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Irvin Yoder conducted the services and Don Ellerbee, Executive Vice President, represented the AETA. Ellerbee spoke to those in attendance reflecting back on Dr. Lott’s involvement with the AETA.

Dr. Lott can be remembered with memorials to the Dr. Dale Lott Memorial Fund, 1390 Belmont Road, Athens, GA 30605. Please keep Dr. Lott’s wife and children in your thoughts and prayers.

My Friend Dale

I first met Dale in 1979 when I started Vet School. Dale was a sophomore and was rush chairman for OTS, one of the vet student fraternities. One of his jobs was to entertain the new freshmen and introduce them to what passes for a social life while in vet school. Of course, I joined OTS largely because of Dale and we began a 24-year friendship. When I wanted to quit vet school my freshman year, Dale spearheaded an intervention group that got me turned around and kept me from dropping out. He became my surrogate big brother and we spent many, many hours at the pool table, the beer keg and the BBQ pit together. There were a number of parties and social functions the three years we were in vet school together. As you all know so well, there was always one person in the house we all gathered around to hear jokes and tell tales.

*That was Dale.*

When I graduated from school, I went directly into embryo transfer. I had some contact with Dale who had gone into a mixed animal practice the year before. He had an interest in ET work at the time but no training. Dale enjoyed the bovine part of his practice much more than the small animal part, even though he was very good with dogs and cats and the clients thought he was great. When an opportunity arose in 1985 and my then boss was ready to expand, he asked me if I knew anyone I thought might be good in the ET industry. I explained that there was this guy that I thought would be perfect. Loved cows, really great personality, clients would love him. So we hired him.

*That was Dale.*

I had the privilege of teaching Dale the fundamentals of ET work and then learning the rest right along side of him through the rest of the 80s. I also awoke in Dale his interest and love for dairy cows and their genetics. Over the years, his knowledge and skills with ET and dairy cattle surpassed mine and he became my go-to guy when I had a problem with my ET work. Dale took to embryo transfer like a duck takes to water. I have never seen anyone so happy to be standing on the south end of a north bound cow covered with crap. Whenever I would question the setup or the recipe or even his sanity about jumping right in there with some of the cows, I would get back that big grin and a sly wink and a “why don’t you just hide and watch” answer from him.

*That was Dale.*

As his practice grew and his skills increased, Dale needed me less and less until not at all and we rode together fewer times. At the time I didn’t realize what a loss to me that was. Looking back on my career, I can say without equivocation that the absolute best times I ever had in practice were when Dale rode in the truck with me. He used to tell me that even if he couldn’t do a good job, he figured he could at least entertain the clients while he was there. He was half wrong, though, because he did a very fine job and totally entertained the clients. Dale even tried to give me “nice” lessons but they didn’t take. I am competent at ET work most days and I take pride in a job well done, but Dale really loved embryo transfer, and it showed in his work. One of the highest points in his professional life was his involvement with the AETA and his tenure on the Board culminating in his term as President. Proud to serve, glad to know you, happy to entertain you.

*That was Dale.*

I had a small fight with cancer in ’83 and ’94 and looking back now, I can see how easy I had it compared to Dale. Still, I am ashamed to say, I complained and cried and took it like a wimp. Dale was sicker and in more pain than any person should ever be, and he accepted it all with grace and strength. He never complained to me, never talked about the unfairness of it all, never gave in to the dark side. There was a time I was on the phone to him and he had to hold the phone away from him to throw up three times in the space of two minutes. When I remarked how sick he seemed to be, he shook it off and said, “no, no problem. I can deal with it.” There was no giving in, no giving up. When I went to see him two weeks before the end, he was still hopeful that a last minute treatment might buy him some more time. Here was a man with ten different bags of who knows what running into him, unable to leave the small hospital room he’s confined in for months now and he is calmly explaining to me what each is for and what the next step is. Hoping to get stable enough for an experimental drug treatment, he explains to me that even if it doesn’t do him any good, they may learn something to help that poor guy just down the hall from him. It was devastating to see him like that. It was uplifting to be around him.

*That was Dale.*

So here we are without him now. I have lost a best friend, the like of which I do not believe I will ever meet again in this lifetime. I am diminished with his loss and nothing will ever be exactly the same again. I loved Dale as the brother I never had, and he was good to me, better than I deserved. In the Old Testament, Habakkuk says, “The Lord is my strength. He maketh my feet like hinds’ feet, that I may tread upon the high places.” I believe Dale now walks the high places. I hope he is preparing a path for me, that one day I may walk beside my brother again. In the time that is left for me here, work will go on, though it is mostly by rote and even less fun than usual. The other day a client asked me why I was so quiet, had something happened? I explained that my friend had left us and I was sorely missing him. In the language of the South my client remarked, “That’s a shame, you brought him here once with you. He seemed like an awfully, awfully nice feller. He had a real special way about him.” My chest tightens and my throat closes and it is a moment before I can mumble,

“Yeah...that was Dale.”

Clay Burnley
VIGRO

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AETA Winter Board Meeting Held February 8, 2003

Included on the agenda were the following items:
- Approval of previous minutes.
- Approval of December financial statement.
- Committee Chairperson Appointments – Dr. Hinshaw
- Committee Reports
  1. 2003 Convention report – Dr. Kennel
  2. Selection of 2004 Convention site – Tampa, FL
  3. Approval of Certification Committee Recommendations
  4. Cooperator report – Dr. DeGroft
  5. Government Liaison – Dr. Whitaker
  6. IETS Meeting report – Dr. DeGroft
*Approved 2003 Budget and GMO contract

Brenda Ensor Joins GMO

I am happy to introduce Brenda Ensor, who will be replacing Therese Kehoe as bookkeeper for the American Embryo Transfer Association. Brenda comes to GMO with excellent credentials in the bookkeeping and accounting field. She is a graduate of University of Northern Colorado and passed her CPA examination in 1982.

Brenda came on board in December of 2002 and has been working with Therese since that time, becoming familiar with the financial responsibilities of the AETA. She has adapted to the procedures very quickly and will be a great asset to the organization.

She was with McDermott & Miller CPA Firm in Omaha, prior to moving back to Hastings. She spent a few years as a stay-home mother while her two sons were growing up; one is in high school and the other in college.

As you meet Brenda, either in person or on the phone, please welcome her to the team. You will find that she is very pleasant to work with and is eager to be of assistance to the membership of the AETA.

It’s Not Too Early to Start Making Plans for AETA/CETA Meeting Airline Accessibility

National and international airline connections, well-maintained highways and efficient and comfortable bus lines make traveling to Calgary easy. Getting around the city is a snap using a variety of inner-city transportation modes including light rail transit.

Calgary’s modern and efficient International Airport is located 20 minutes from the city centre. Passengers continually rank the Calgary International Airport as one of the best airports in North America for overall passenger convenience. The following passenger airlines offer regular service to Calgary from major North American and overseas cities: Air BC, Air Canada, Air Transat, Airtours International, Alberta City Link, American Airlines, Balair, Brittania, Canada 3000, Central Mountain Air, Continental Airlines, Horizon Air, Martinair Holland, Monarch, Northwest Airlines, Northern Sky Aviation, Royal Airlines, Skyservice, Skywest, United Airlines and Westjet.

The airlines serving Calgary through code share include: Alaska Airlines, British Airways, Cathay Pacific, Delta Air Lines, Japan Airlines, Lufthansa and Scandinavian Airlines.

Cargo/courier companies that serve Calgary include: All Canada Express, Ameriflight, Bax Global, DHL International Express, Emery Worldwide, Federal Express, Firstair Cargo, International Cargo Charters Canada, Knighthawk Air Express, Morningstar Air Express, Purolator Courier and United Parcel Service.
The Canadian Rockies
“Banff and Lake Louise”

Towering mountain peaks, pristine glacial-fed lakes, lush valleys and nature-filled forests create the majesty of the Canadian Rockies. All this is yours to discover just an hour drive west of Calgary in Banff National Park.

Let the awe-inspiring sights of the Rockies unveil themselves to you as you head towards the famous town sites of Banff and Lake Louise. In Banff, saunter along a main street lined with shops, restaurants and cafés. Take a ride up the gondola on Sulphur Mountain for a panoramic view of the town and surrounding area or you might want to pack a picnic and spend the day at Lake Minnewanka, hiking along the shore or touring the lake by boat.

From the steps of Chateau Lake Louise, take in the picture postcard view of Victoria Glacier hanging above emerald-colored Lake Louise. For the more adventurous, hike many nearby trails. Back inside the Chateau or in the town of Lake Louise, browse the fine stores where you are sure to find that unique gift or souvenir to take back home.

Both towns are excellent bases for backcountry adventures. Set out for hiking, biking or horseback excursions through the untouched wilderness. In winter, take a sleigh ride, team up with a dog sled or ski down a mountain.

At the end of a busy day, satisfy your appetite at one of a variety of restaurants or dance the night away. Pop into a local pub or take in a performance at the Banff Centre for Performing Arts.

Whether you come to the Rockies for relaxation or a walk on the wild side, there’s something for everyone.
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Tentative Schedule
Joint AETA/CETA Scientific Conference
Prepared by Dr. Roger Davis
Conference confirmed at Westin Hotel, Calgary, AB
September 3-6, 2003

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

Wednesday, September 3
8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. CETA Certification Committee Meeting
11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. CETA Board of Directors Meeting
1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. CET/AET Examination
6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. AETA Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, September 4
7:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Golf
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET 101
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Embryo Splitting/Sexing Wet Lab
7:00 p.m. AB Technology & Friends Cocktail Party

Friday, September 5
7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Registration
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast (Exhibit Area)
8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Scientific Sessions
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Coffee Break (Exhibit Area)
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. AETA Annual Meeting
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CETA Annual Meeting (Separate Room)
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Scientific Sessions
3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Coffee Break (Exhibit Area)
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Scientific Sessions
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Social Hour (Exhibit Area)
7:00 p.m. Banquet

Saturday, September 6
7:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Registration
7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m. Breakfast (Exhibit Area)
8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Scientific Sessions
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Coffee Break (Exhibit Area)
12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Certification Committee (AETA/CETA)
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Coffee Break (Exhibit Area)
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Practitioners Forum

Note: Companion Program Friday and Saturday (Cindy Davis)
FACTS ABOUT CALGARY

Minutes from adventure in an unspoiled mountain playground, Calgary is clean and safe; a big city without big city problems. Nestled in the rolling foothills of the majestic Canadian Rockies, Calgary and area presents a contrasting picture of gleaming cityscape set against wide-open prairies and snow-capped mountain peaks.

Over the past 100 years, the city has matured and flourished – from a frontier town to an oil town to a major cosmopolitan centre. After a rapid population increase in the '70s and a building boom in the '80s, Calgary now enjoys a more gradual growth and is one of North America's most important cities. At 890,000 people, Calgary is the second largest Head Office centre in Canada – the financial centre for western Canada, a transportation hub and an important research and technology centre.

Today, petroleum is still vital to the economy. So are ranching and the food processing industries. However, Calgary business continues to diversify into various other sectors of the economy.

The city gained international recognition when Calgarians were hosts to the 1988 Winter Olympic Games. The Olympic legacy lives on as facilities constructed for that event have become permanent winter sports attractions and unique meeting venues that have since held the 1996 International Rotary Convention and the 1997 World Police and Fire Games. In June 2000, Calgary was host to the World Petroleum Congress and the National Petroleum Show.

Calgary's TELUS Convention Centre has recently completed a $64-million expansion to the existing Convention Centre. The combined facility now has a 20,000 square-foot ballroom, 82,800 square feet of exhibit space, three-pre-function areas and 24 breakout rooms. The total combined square footage of useable meeting space is approximately 120,000 square feet. The expansion was part of a $150 million downtown redevelopment that also added: a 355 room Hyatt Regency hotel; 32,000 square feet of new city-owned commercial/retail space on the first floor of the convention centre; and a row of historic sandstone buildings to the block.

Calgary is home to the famous Calgary Exhibition & Stampede, acknowledged as “The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth.” Each July, the Stampede galvanizes the entire city bringing with it, rugged cowboys, parades, pancake breakfasts and lively street entertainers.

The Stampede is also a year-round meeting/trade show and special event facility that has also recently completed the first phase of a $60 million expansion and redevelopment. The $29.2 million expansion of the Roundup Centre has added 114,000 square feet of space, the facility can now offer 200,000 square feet of exhibit hall space divisible into four 50,000 square foot halls and 15,000 square feet of meeting space, divisible into 14 meeting rooms.

Sunny Alberta is famous for its near-ideal snow conditions for winter enthusiasts and long, warm daylight hours for summer travelers. Chinook winds turn winter days into spring with temperatures rising by more than 22°C or 71°F in one day, an average of 25 days each year.

The average temperature (November to March) is 11°C or 52°F and the average summer temperature (June to August) is 20°-25°C or 70°-80° F. On average, there are 2,314 hours of sunshine and about 113 days with precipitation per year. The total rain/snowfall per year is 424mm or 17 inches. The average wind speed for the year is 16 km/h or 10 mph.

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