Our winter here in Pennsylvania has been exceptionally cold, and it seems like it is longer than usual. It could be that my age is showing, but I’d like to blame it on other factors—like a malfunctioning 4 x 4 truck. We’ve been waiting for parts from GM for over two weeks, and yesterday I learned that they sent only part of the order. I hope the rest of you are breezing through the winter with few difficulties.

The winter Board meeting was held in Savoy, Illinois at the office of FASS, our management company. It was good for us as a Board to get a tour of the facility and to see where the day-to-day business of the AETA takes place. We continue to be impressed by the efficiency of the FASS office. My thanks to Chuck, Lorena, and Jennifer for their hospitality and help as the board tackled a very ambitious agenda. A summary of our winter Board meeting is included in this issue for your information. I’ll highlight several of the decisions we made.

A committee that was in place in previous years has been revived. The membership committee will be chaired by Dr. Cheryl Nelson. The first order of business for this committee will be to send out invitations for membership to those individuals who have applied for a freeze code but are not presently members of the AETA. Please remember that although we now have an active membership committee, that does not absolve any of us of the responsibility of recruiting new members. Word of mouth is still the best advertisement we have at our disposal.

The Gelbvieh and Red Angus breed journals are being added to the list of publications that will be used to publish the certification advertisements. The Board is open to new ways to increase our visibility in the embryo transfer marketplace.

One of the things that has been irritating to me in recent years is the fact that the Pennsylvania Veterinary Licensing Board has not given blanket approval of our annual meeting as valid continuing education. I have come to realize that there are other states that also do not grant approval unless someone takes the time and effort to petition for that approval each year. I am happy to announce that the Board has decided to apply for recognition through a national clearinghouse for continuing education providers. This service is called “Registry of Approved Continuing Education” (RACE). There are currently 41 states and provinces (Canada) that accept RACE-approved programs. Many of the remaining states either do not have CE requirements or are working toward accepting RACE.

Dr. Tom Rea has been busy planning our annual 2004 convention to be held in Tampa. Look for a summary of that meeting in this issue and keep those dates open. The Canadian Embryo Transfer Association is again planning to join us for that meeting, which enables us to put on a more efficient program. At a time when our finances are more limited than in previous years, that is a significant consideration.

We are hoping to be able to schedule the 2005 meeting in Baltimore. The Inner Harbor area
would be a great place to visit, and the National Aquarium is nearby. Also, if you like to eat crab, it’s a great place to dine.

We are continuing to update and improve our new web site (www.aeta.org). I think you will be pleased as you visit that site. You will need your membership number to visit the “members only” section. Contact the office if you have misplaced your number. Also, let Jennifer know if you have changed your e-mail address.

THINK SPRING!!

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Articles published in *A Closer Look* are not peer-reviewed or refereed. All statements, opinions, and conclusions contained in the articles in *A Closer Look* are those of the author(s), and are not necessarily those of the American Embryo Transfer Association unless specifically approved by the AETA Board of Directors.

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**2004 A Closer Look**

**Advertising Rates**

- Business Card Size Ad $30 per issue
- ¼ Page Ad $55 per issue
- ½ Page Ad $105 per issue
- Full Page Ad $180 per issue

**Publication Schedule and Deadlines**

**Issue**
- Winter—February
- Spring—May
- Summer—August
- Fall—November

Ads are due the 15th of the month of each issue month. If you would like to advertise in the next issue, please contact AETA at aeta@assochq.org or 217-356-2217.

*AETA can now accept ads electronically or camera-ready for publication.*

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**Future Meeting Dates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AETA</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>October 13 – 15</th>
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<tr>
<td>IETS</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>January 9 – 11</td>
<td>Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>January 8 – 10</td>
<td>Orlando, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>AABP</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>September 23 – 25</td>
<td>Ft. Worth, TX</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>September 24 – 26</td>
<td>Salt Lake City, UT</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>September 21 – 21</td>
<td>St. Paul, MN</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>September 20 – 22</td>
<td>Vancouver, BC, Canada</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>September 25 – 27</td>
<td>Charlotte, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>SFT</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>August 4 – 8</td>
<td>Lexington, KY</td>
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AETA Board of Directors Meeting
January 31, 2004
Savoy, IL

Highlights

1) This was the first meeting at the new Headquarters Office. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m.

2) The Audit Committee met at the office Friday, January 30 and performed the audit procedures as described and approved in Calgary. They reported on their activities and were pleased with the information that was provided and the review of all financial activities and records. They met with the bank representatives and received confirmation of all balances and activities.

3) Minutes of previous board meetings and the annual membership meeting were approved.

4) The 2003 VP/Convention Chair reported on final activities from the 2003 meeting.

5) Dr. Richards presented the preliminary end-of-year financial statements along with the treasurer’s report. The report focused on current financial status, financial activities, and the new approval/reporting structure with the new management company.

6) The Board voted to send out second reminders for 2004 membership dues to those members who have not yet renewed.

7) President Kennel reported on his trip to the IETS meeting.

8) Dr. Hinshaw reported on the GMO Committee’s activities.

9) The Manuals and Promotions Committee report was discussed.

10) Dr. Rea presented his 2004 Convention Committee report, including a description of potential speaker, social events, companion activities, and structure.

11) Dr. Malin presented his certification report. Discussion regarding CE credits and the cycle of certification precipitated. Discussion also ensued regarding the procedures for the approval of special meetings.

12) Dr. Armbrust’s written Cooperator Committee report was discussed.

13) Future dates and locations of the AETA winter Board meeting were discussed, and the audit committee review schedule was established.

14) The Board was informed that IETS has extended an invitation to AETA to host a pre-conference workshop at the 2006 IETS annual meeting in Orlando. Dr. Kennel will appoint a committee to review the feasibility of a program. The Board will discuss this at the October Board meeting.

15) The AETA vision was discussed. A Membership Committee was formed with Dr. Nelson serving as Chair of the committee.

16) The 2005 annual meeting was discussed, along with the future of joint meetings with CETA. Registration rates were established for the 2004 annual meeting.

17) Advertising rates were reviewed and adjusted.

18) The Board approved the submission of an application to R.A.C.E. by the AETA.

19) The Board discussed moving ahead with the development of an official “Board Member Handbook.”

20) The Board will form a committee to review the by-laws and propose changes for consideration by the board.

21) The board evaluated the new management company and then provided feedback to the FASS staff present.

22) The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.
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107 TOXICITY OF ETHYLENE GLYCOL ON FROZEN AND THAWED IVP EMBRYOS IN DIRECT TRANSFER METHOD


ANational Livestock Breeding Center, Fukushima, Japan; BDepartment of Dairy Science, Rakuno Gakuen University, Hokkaido, Japan

Ethylene glycol (EG) is a cryoprotectant which is highly permeable to mammalian embryos. But the toxicity of this cryoprotectant for embryos after thawing has not been investigated. The aim of this study was to determine the toxicity of EG to embryos frozen and thawed by a direct transfer method. In vitro-produced Day 7 blastocysts (n=529) of grade 1 quality were used in this study. Embryos were frozen in 1.5 M EG in Dulbecco’s PBS (DPBS) supplemented with 0.1 M sucrose, 4 mg mL⁻¹ BSA and 20% fetal calf serum (FCS). Embryos were transferred into freezing medium, loaded into 0.25-ml straws and kept for more than 15 min for equilibration; then the straws were plunged into a -7°C methanol bath of a programmable freezer for 1 min, seeded at -7°C, held at -7°C for 14 min, cooled to -30°C at the rate of -0.3°C min⁻¹ and then plunged into liquid nitrogen. The straws were thawed by holding in air for 6 sec, and then placed in water at 30°C for 15 sec. After thawing, the straws were held for 0, 10, 20, 30 and 60 min (holding time) at either 38.5 or 26.0°C. Ethylene glycol was removed from the embryos by placing them into DPBS supplemented with 20% CS at 38.5°C more than 20 min. The embryos were cultured in TCM-199 supplemented with 20% FCS and 0.1 mM β-mercaptoethanol under a gas phase of 5% CO₂ in air at 38.5°C for 72 h. Viability of embryos was evaluated at 0-, 24-, 48- and 72-h incubation by their morphological development. Data were analyzed by ANOVA. There was no significantly difference in the survival rate of thawed embryos held at 38.5°C or 26.0°C for the same holding periods. The survival rate of the thawed embryos held at 38.5°C decreased significantly when the holding period exceeded 30 min compared with no holding period after 24- and 72-h culture (P<0.05, respectively). On the other hand, the survival rate of the thawed embryos held at 26.0°C decreased significantly when the holding time was 60 min compared with less than 20 min of holding after 24-h culture, and less than 10 min after 72-h culture (P<0.05, respectively). Therefore, toxicity of EG was observed when thawed embryos were held for 30 and 60 min at 38.5°C and 60 min at 26.0°C. These results suggest the toxicity of EG in direct transfer methods can be avoided by transferring the embryos within 20 min after thawing.

Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Holding time (min)</th>
<th>No. of embryos</th>
<th>Survival rate (Mean ± SEM) (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>71.1 ± 25.7a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38.5 (n = 7)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>54.0 ± 16.1ab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>61.7 ± 17.4ab</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>40.7 ± 29.6c</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>44.0 ± 23.2c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.0 (n = 9)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>56.9 ± 28.5ac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>77.5 ± 17.5a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>58.7 ± 23.4ac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>53.3 ± 19.1c</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>32.2 ± 27.5c</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Number of replicates.

*Values in same columns of each temperature with different superscripts differ (P<0.05).
171 IMPROVEMENT IN EMBRYO RECOVERY USING UTERINE DOUBLE FLUSHING

A. Castro Neto\textsuperscript{c}, B.V. Sanches\textsuperscript{a}, S.H.V. Perri\textsuperscript{b}, M.M. Seneda\textsuperscript{a}, and J.F. Garcia\textsuperscript{b}

\textsuperscript{a}Universidade Estadual de Londrina, Londrina, Brazil; \textsuperscript{b}UNESP Araçatuba, Brazil; \textsuperscript{c}Clinica Veterinaria Garça, Araçatuba, Brazil

The aim of the present study was to evaluate the effects of uterine double flushing on embryo recovery rates (total structures and viable embryos), after a resting period with the uterus filled with PBS. There were 210 embryo recovery procedures conducted using the uterine double flushing method, and the results were compared with 432 conventional single flushing procedures. All procedures were conducted with Limousin (\(n=403\)) and Guzerá (\(n=239\)) cows, following the same superovulation protocol. Cyclic donors received a progestagen implant (CIDR\textsuperscript{®}) and 1 mL of oestradiol benzoate (Estrogin\textsuperscript{®}) at Day 0. Between Day 5 and Day 9 animals received doses ranging from 200 to 300 UI (zebu cows) and 300 to 500 UI (taurine cows) of FSH (Pluset\textsuperscript{®} - Serono) in decreasing doses. Between Day 6 and Day 8 PGF\(_2\alpha\) (Ciosin\textsuperscript{®}) was administered, followed by withdrawal of the progestagen after 24 h. Artificial insemination was performed between 14 and 26 h after the beginning of treatment. For the double flushing procedure, after the first uterine flushing of both horns with 1 L DPBS (Nutricell), a Foley catheter was positioned in the uterine body in order to fill the uterus with the same solution (80 to 150 ml). After this procedure the catheter was closed with a disposable 5-ml syringe gasket, and the animals were allowed to rest in the surroundings of the work place for 30 min. After this period, a second flush was performed in order to recover the remaining liquid used during manipulation of the uterus. Animals from the control group (group A) were subjected to a single uterine flushing procedure. From 210 double flushing procedures (group B - test), 1409 viable embryos were produced, classified as grades I, II, III and IV - (IETS), (average of 6.7 embryos per procedure), whereas, in the 432 single flushing procedure (group A - control), 1993 embryos were produced (average of 4.6). Statistical analysis showed the increase of viable embryo recovery rate. When consecutive double flushing was performed, the average of recovered embryos increased from 8.3 to 12.7 (\(P<0.05\)) in Limousin cows, and from 7.9 to 11.5 (\(P<0.05\)) in Guzerá cows. Comparing recovery after single flushing with that after double flushing, the mean number of viable embryos increased from 4.7 to 6.9 (\(P<0.05\)) in Limousin cows and from 4.5 to 6.4 (\(P<0.05\)) in Guzerá cows. In order to assure the nonexistence of negligence effects or operator influence on results, the mean values of total embryo recovery rate after single flushing (control group) was compared to the mean values of the same rate after the first uterine flushing on test group. Results indicated no difference between recovery rates. The present work showed the viability of using the uterine double flushing procedure for improvement of embryo recovery rates in cattle.

178 EMBRYO QUALITY AND COLOR IN HOLSTEIN FRIESIAN AND BELGIAN BLUE CATTLE IN RELATION TO DONOR BLOOD CHOLESTEROL AND TRIGLYCERIDES

J.L.M.R. Leroy\textsuperscript{a}, L. Goossens\textsuperscript{b}, A. Geldhof\textsuperscript{a}, T. Vanholder\textsuperscript{a}, G. Opsomer\textsuperscript{a}, A. Van Soom\textsuperscript{a}, A. de Kruif\textsuperscript{a}

\textsuperscript{a}Department of Reproduction, Obstetrics and Herd Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Ghent, Merelbeke, Belgium; \textsuperscript{b}Flemish Cattle Breeding Association, Oosterzele, Belgium

Bovine embryo freezability is closely linked with quality and differs between cow breeds (Visintin JA et al., 2002 Theriogenology 57, 345-359). Dark embryos have a bad freezability, resulting in low pregnancy rates (Hill BR and Kuehner LF, 1998 Theriogenology 49,168). Excessive accumulation of lipid droplets in dark embryos is suggested to be the cause of this inferior embryo quality and in turn may be influenced by the biochemical composition of the embryonic environment. In a field trial we studied the relationship between donor breed (Holstein Friesian dairy cows v. Belgian Blue beef cows), donor serum total cholesterol and triglyceride concentration, embryo quality and embryo color. The preliminary results are presented. Blood was drawn from Holstein Friesian (HF) (\(n=74\)) and Belgian Blue cows (BB) (\(n=55\)) prior to embryo flushing on Day 7 after superovulation and subsequent insemination. Serum was analyzed for total cholesterol and triglycerides using commercial photometric assays. Embryos were scored individually by the same operator for quality (excellent to bad: score 1 to 4) and for color: light (L), medium (M) or dark (D).
using a binocular stereomicroscope (40X). Student’s t-test, chi-square test and Spearman correlations were used when appropriate. Holstein Friesian cows yielded significantly more embryos (± SEM) per flushing than did BB (6.0 ± 0.59 v. 4.2 ± 0.44) (P<0.05). However, significantly more HF embryos were classified as dark compared to the BB embryos (L, M, D: 39.4%, 43.8% and 16.8% v. 80.5%, 19.5% and 0% of the HF and BB embryos, respectively) (P<0.05). Significantly more BB embryos showed an excellent morphological quality (55.0% of BB embryos compared to 28.4% of HF embryos) (P<0.05). The serum concentrations (± SEM) of total cholesterol (148 ± 5.9 mg dL−1 v. 106 ± 4.1 mg dL−1) were significantly higher and the serum concentrations of triglycerides (19.6 ± 0.71 mg dL−1 v. 28.4 ± 3.34 mg dL−1) were significantly lower in HF compared to BB (P<0.05). Within the HF breed, there was a significant positive correlation between donor blood total cholesterol and the color of each embryo (r = 0.545) and a negative correlation between serum triglycerides and embryo color (r = -0.484) (P<0.05). In our study, embryo quality and color as well as serum total cholesterol and triglyceride concentrations are clearly influenced by donor breed. Within the HF breed, darker embryos originate from donors with higher serum total cholesterol and lower serum triglyceride levels. These preliminary data suggest that factors influencing total cholesterol and triglyceride concentrations in the donor blood (e.g., breed, milk yield, nutrition) may influence embryo color and thus embryo lipid content, freezability and subsequent pregnancy rate.
The GMO Resolution Committee has continued to work with our attorney, Gene Summerlin, on issues concerning GMO, including the recovery of AETA funds, criminal prosecution, and reinstatement of our non-profit corporate status as well as a number of issues related to the mismanagement of the AETA by GMO.

As stated in the 2003 AETA President’s report, there appear to be six possible areas for recovery: GMO, Don Ellerbee, Therese Kehoe, financial institutions, D&O insurance, and Contrymen and Associates (GMO accountants). The Nebraska Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) filed a civil suit against GMO, Ellerbee, and Kehoe in late November 2003. The week of January 19th, 2004, the AETA also filed suit against the aforementioned. Our attorney will be coordinating and sharing responsibilities with NFDA's attorney in pursuing the case. The attorney decided to go ahead and file a civil suit as little progress had been made with the criminal investigation and prosecution. However, there has been some recent activity concerning criminal prosecution. A new FBI agent, Will Schaffer, has been assigned to the case, and he seems eager to move forward. Mr. Schaffer is a lawyer who previously served as an assistant United States Attorney. We are excited to have him in charge.

Coincidentally, the AETA and NFDA intend to pursue claims against financial institutions. We hope to cost share some of the legal expense with NFDA. The suits are expected to be filed in the next 30 days.

In the opinion of our attorney, claims against the D&O insurance or against Contrymen were not valid.

The AETA has not been in good corporate standing with the state of Texas since 1982. As of January 23, 2004, all necessary corporate occupation tax reports have been prepared and filed with the Texas Comptroller's Office. The total taxes, penalties, and interest owed by the AETA were paid, and the Texas Secretary of State reinstated our non-profit corporation.

The AETA is not a tax-exempt entity. We had applied for 501(c) tax-exempt status, but never received approval. We are currently pursuing our tax exemption status.

We have minimized the legal and accounting expenses whenever possible, but bills have continued to mount. A large portion of those bills relate to correcting problems created by GMO and not the direct prosecution of those responsible. The committee still hopes to recover a portion of funds with the absolute minimal litigation.

The committee appreciates the continued support of the membership. Feel free to contact any committee member:

Randall Hinshaw — rhinshaw@rica.net
Darrell DeGrofft — cginc@hotmail.com
Dan Hornickel — hornickl@idcnet.com; sunshine@idcnet.com
Steve Malin — malin@spiritusa.net

Respectfully submitted,
Randall H. Hinshaw, D.V.M.

February 25, 2004

APHIS Import/Export staff have requested that Japan allow an interim protocol for shipment of US embryos to Japan. This interim period will allow for complete negotiation of a new and more permanent protocol. The interim protocol will likely have some added statement relating to BSE. APHIS staff hopes that this will be implemented immediately, and they are planning for Drs. Williams and Taniewski to meet with MAFF officials in Japan around the middle of March to discuss this and other matters. Thanks for your patience.
Cooperator Committee Report

The Cooperator Committee has been busy planning the 2004 agenda and applying for 2005 Foreign Market Development (FMD) funds with the cooperation of the USLGE (US Livestock Genetics Export).

Committee member Bob Rowe attended the USLGE meeting and workshop in Las Vegas in January to represent the AETA. Dr. Rowe met with livestock and genetics representatives as well as state industry reps to discuss the mechanics of the FAS (Foreign Agriculture Service) funding and application programs. The AETA has applied for funding in 2005
1) to return to China as a follow-up to the Bovine Embryo Quality Samples Program (QSP) and to continue Chinese interest in upgrading their cattle genetics from embryos.
2) to develop a QSP for Boer goat embryos with an implantation and training seminar in China.
3) to send a delegation to Japan to defuse the BSE situation with regard to the export of embryos to Japan and a general goodwill trip to discuss the embryo export market with Japan. Japan has been a major embryo market for the US.

The AETA Trade Mission that was delayed because of the SARS epidemic last year, is now planned for mid March 2004. The delegation of Drs. Degrofft, Kennel, and Armbrust accompanied by Victor Zhang will implant 60 dairy and 20 beef embryos that were exported in October 2003 at three different sites during the 10 day trip. Visits will be made to see the resulting ET calves from the September 2002 implantations (55% pregnancy rate). Discussions will be held with Chinese animal health officials as well as with the USDA-APHIS representatives in China to offer solutions to some of the obstacles preventing the export of US embryos and genetics to China both in cattle and goats. Presently, China has banned embryo exports because of the BSE problem. The AETA has an additional $20,000 in FMD funds that must be used by October 2004 for export development projects. The funds were initially designated to bring 4 to 8 Chinese ET persons to the US for training and to attend the AETA meeting, but the committee is also exploring the use of funds to reopen worldwide embryo markets that have been closed by the BSE problem.

Mike Phillips at USLGE has been a great help to the AETA with these projects. The USLGE is working with the USDA to organize the next Chinese inspection tour for ET and AI facilities, but as of the present time and because of the BSE ban, the inspection tour has no definite date scheduled.

The Cooperator Committee is always exploring ideas to enhance US embryo marketing and is open to suggestions from AETA members.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Scott W. Armbrust, Chair

Certification Committee News

Six new companies have successfully completed the application and testing process for certification as a result of tests written at our annual meeting in Calgary, the IETS meeting in Portland, and the winter Board meeting in Savoy.

The new certified companies are
1. Bailey Animal Clinic (Dr. Dale Waller), Baileyville, KS
2. Carter Embryo Transfer Services (Dr. Joel Carter), Madison, WI
3. Collison Embryo (Dr. Vincent Collison), Lake City, IA
4. Countryside Veterinary Clinic (Dr. Richard Geary), Burley, ID
5. Cross Country Genetics-North (Dr. Clay Breiner), Westmorland, KS
6. Lena Veterinary Clinic (Dr. Cary Schroeder), Lena, IL

At the recent winter Board meeting, the Board voted to continue to allow CE credits earned as a result of attendance at the IETS meeting in January to be applicable to the just completed, 3-year cycle for individuals who need this credit to meet their 30 approved certification credits for that period. CE credits can only be used for one 3-year cycle. Therefore, these credits cannot be also counted to meet the requirements for the new 3-year cycle.
The plans for the 2004 annual meeting are well under way. Tampa is a wonderful location for an October convention. The weather should be very pleasant, and the entertainment and recreational opportunities are almost endless.

The scientific program is very exciting. A list of confirmed speakers and their topics includes:

- **Hernan Baldassarre**, Quebec: Small ruminant embryo transfer wet lab and lecture
- **Bill Beal**, Virginia: Ultrasound wet lab and round table discussion participant
- **Bob Godke**, Louisiana: Trans vaginal ultrasound guided oocyte recovery in many species other than cattle
- **Paul Greenough**, Saskatchewan: Nutrition as it relates to reproduction and lamness
- **Peter Hansen**, Florida: Advanced embryo technologies
- **Cliff Lamb**, Minnesota: Synchronization protocols
- **Charles Looney**, Texas: Environmental influences on ET, breed differences, trans vaginal
- **Randy Prather**, Missouri: Swine embryo transfer, xeno transplantation
- **Ruben Mapleton**, Round table discussion moderator
- **Ed Squires** and **Elaine Carnevale**, Colorado: Equine wet lab and assisted reproduction in the horse

Updates on cloning, vitrification, and BSE are also scheduled.

The companion tours promise to be entertaining. Trips we are considering include a tour of Ybor (the Cuban area of Tampa) to sample Cuban bread and tobacco at a 100-year-old Columbia Restaurant; the Florida Aquarium; The Bay Spirit (a catamaran tour of Tampa bay); Busch Gardens with Jack Hanna.

*Please join us in Tampa. It should be a very informative and enjoyable time.*
Bioniche Life Sciences
Acquires AB Technology

Bioniche Life Sciences Inc., manufacturer of Folltropin®-V, recently announced the purchase of AB Technology Inc. of Pullman, Washington. A world leader in the development of embryo transfer media, materials and equipment for bovine and equine markets, AB Technology will operate as a unit of Bioniche Animal Health USA, Inc. (Athens, GA).

Synergies resulting from the merger will provide embryo transfer practitioners around the world with a market-leading range of superior livestock reproductive technologies and services. Graeme McRae, President and CEO of Bioniche Life Sciences stated, “The products and research expertise developed by AB Technology will greatly contribute to strengthening our global reproductive technologies business.”

For more information contact:

BIONICHE
ANIMAL HEALTH USA, INC.
1-888-549-4503

AB TECHNOLOGY
1-800-335-8595

Anti-PETA petition off to a quick start

The Center for Consumer Freedom has launched an online petition asking the United States Treasury Department to cancel the tax-exempt status currently extended to People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and its affiliated organizations.

According to the Center, PETA has donated over $150,000 to criminal activists—including those jailed for arson, burglary and even attempted murder; and $1,500 to the North American Earth Liberation Front, a criminal organization that the FBI classifies as “domestic terrorists.”

The petition notes that PETA collected over $17 million in 2002, avoiding over $3 million in federal income taxes. “PETA’s tax-exempt status was granted by the U.S. government on the basis of the group’s willingness to conduct itself in a lawful fashion,” the center notes. The online petition gathered over 10,000 signatures during the first week.

For more information or to view the petition, go to www.consumerfreedom.com/petaPetition.cfm.

Bovine Embryo Transfer Workshop for Veterinarians
March 26 – 28, 2004

The objective is to provide the veterinarian with practical, hands-on exposure to the application of embryo transfer in cattle. A brief review of the physiology and endocrinology of the bovine estrous cycle will precede the discussion of superovulation and synchronization of ovulation of donor and recipient animals. Embryo recovery techniques, as well as transfer methods, including direct transfer, will be illustrated and demonstrated. Freezing and thawing of embryos will be discussed, demonstrated, and practiced.

Two-thirds of the workshop will be devoted to laboratory time when participants will practice recovery techniques on live dairy cows, manipulate ova and embryos under the microscope, and practice freezing and thawing embryos. Participants will be provided with a training manual, which contains a set of exercises, list of equipment and supplies needed, as well as treatment schedules. Enrollment will be limited to 20 veterinarians.

Workshop Coordinator: Maarten Drost, DVM
To be held at: The University of Florida Veterinary Teaching Hospital
Fee: $650

For further information on registration, contact:
Theresa Moody
Bovine Embryo Transfer Workshop
College of Veterinary Medicine
PO Box 100136
Gainesville, FL 32610-0136
Phone: (352) 392-4700, Ext. 5609
Fax: (352) 392-8289
E-mail: moodyt@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu
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