

Horse breeding problems eased

KALAMAZOO, Mich. - Horse breeding management has entered a new technological age with the introduction of the first agricultural prostaglandin product in the United States.

Announced at a Prostaglandins in Agriculture Conference held near here in March by The Upjohn Company, the introduction of Prostin F2 alpha represents a major breakthrough in pharmaceutical technology. This prostaglandin product will be used by veterinarians to aid horse breeders in the timing of estrus and breeding management problems.

According to Upjohn researcher Dr. James Lauderdale, Prostin F2 alpha (PGF2a) influences the time of estrus in cycling mares. This action aids in bringing most difficult-to-breed mares into estrus, and also helps control timing of estrus in normally cycling mares for more efficient breeding.

Prostaglandins are potent substances believed to play a key role in cellular metabolism and regulation of many bodily functions. They have attracted worldwide interest during recent years because of the widespread effects different prostaglandins have on various body processes in both humans and animals.

Prostaglandins regulate a variety of bodily functions including reproduction, blood pressure, gastric secretion, inflammatory response to injury, hormone action, and blood clotting. Some researchers term them the new "miracle drugs" of the 1970's and 80's.

Upjohn has been a worldwide leader in research and development of prostaglandin compounds, and last year introduced PGF2a into some international markets for regulating estrous cycles in both horses and cattle.

"Introducing Prostin F2 alpha in the United States represents Upjohn's first step in developing these very significant compounds for use in what's hoped to be a wide range of animal health applications," adds Dr. Robert Zimelman, Upjohn research manager.

Mares are regarded as one

of the most difficult animals to breed efficiently because of the seasonal nature and relatively variable length of their estrous cycles. According to Dr. John Sullivan, American Breeders Service, the great variability in the normal reproductive performance of mares is a major breeding problem.

Prostin F2 alpha is injected intramuscularly and

mares are usually detected in estrus an average of three to four days after the injection, with ovulation occurring about seven days after injection. Mares can be bred during the induced estrus.

"The product offers horse owners the method for a planned breeding program," Lauderdale says. "With difficult-to-breed mares and

normally cycling mares showing a high response to this compound, the timing and detection of estrus no longer has to be left to chance."

Lauderdale refers to research conducted by Upjohn and independent scientists. Clinically anestrus mares so that pregnancy can be established by breeding at

estrus detected within a few days after treatment."

After conducting research on this new product, Dr. Robert Kenney, University of Pennsylvania animal reproduction scientist, concludes, "it appears at this time that PGF2a holds promise of being the most effective drug in the arsenal of the veterinarian in brood mare practice."

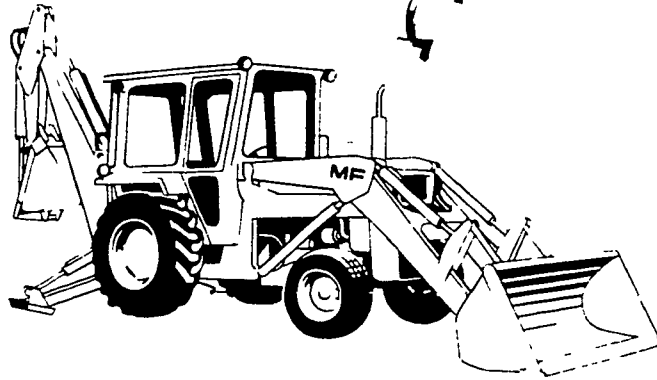
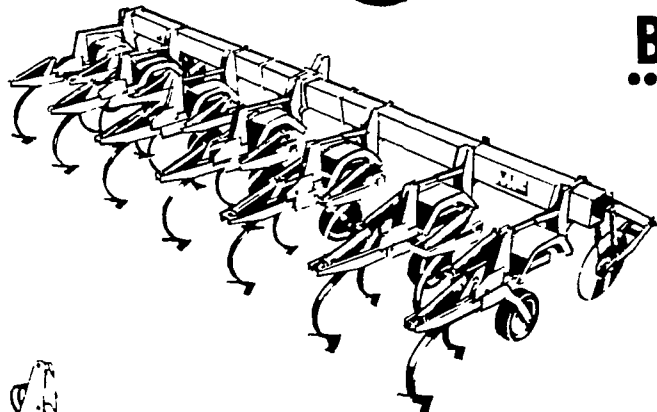
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