

Post-Breeding Heat Detection Critical To Efficient Reproductive Management

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STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) - The initial goal of a heat detection program should be that 80% of the cows receive their first insemination within 20 days of the voluntary waiting period (UWP). If the UWP is 50 days, then 80% of the cows should be identified in estrus and inseminated by 70 days. Since more dairy herds are using estrous synchronization programs to induce estrus near the targeted UWP, the pre-breeding estrous detection rate prior to first breeding has improved. The next goal should

be to detect at least 70% of the cows in heat that failed to conceive by the time of the pregnancy examination (35 to 45 days). This is termed post-breeding estrous detection rate.

Embryonic death (ED) is a major cause of repeat breeding. However, no matter what the cause, most of embryonic death occurs before day 16 post insemination and almost all cases occur before day 42. Thus those cows that experience ED should have at least one opportunity to express estrus before the anticipated pregnancy examination.

Too often when timed breeding programs (insemination by appointment) are discussed and

promoted, emphasis is placed on the fact that heat detection is discussed and promoted, emphasis is placed on the fact that heat detection is eliminated. That may be true for the initial insemination. However, for those that use the DvSynch synchronization program which involves a series of injections of GnRH-prostaglandin-GnRH and timed breeding at a prescribed time, heat detection must be intense post insemination so that a high percentage of the return heats are detected early. Minimizing or ignoring heat detection between the timed insemination and pregnancy exam will be costly since time to

report breeding for those cows that failed to conceive is delayed.

Post-breeding estrous detection whether following a synchronization program or routine

visual observation for heat is a critical element of the total reproductive management. An excessive number of days can be lost if return heats are not detected early.

Central Milk Testing Lab Services

DIXIE BURRIS
Laboratory Manager

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) - Whether you're a dairy producer or processor, Central Milk Testing Laboratory Service is ready to perform services in a prompt, timely and cost effective manner. Our certified, technical, and professional staff prides itself on attention to detail, consistent quality service and personalized programs that will meet your needs. With extensive sample transport system that DHIA offers, our custom reporting and data file transfer systems we are able to give you excellent turnaround time.

Our customized service is competitively priced, quick and efficient and offers electronic or printed reporting. Our transportation service with our multiple truck routes and extended hours adds to our prompt service. Custom reporting and data transfer service can be sent via fax, mail, diskette or electronic bulletin board or express delivery.

tested as well as an average for the herd. The herd and lactation data supplied can be used to help dairymen and feed consultant with their feed adjust-

ments. True protein is another. The qualified staff, licensed with the PA Department of Agriculture, gives us the edge on excellence for producer samples and accents our member samples with an extra touch of QC.

The Central Milk Testing Laboratory is located in central Pennsylvania, which makes us easy to access from the entire state. We pick up samples everyday and test samples from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm six days a week. PA DHIA can be found on Orchard Road, University Park, PA 16802 (home of the Penn State Nittany Lions) and you can reach us by calling 814-865-1517 or 800-DHI-TEST (800-344-8378).

Since the start of MUN testing, we have analyzed over a million and half samples. We continue to maintain a high percentage of our members testing and using the Milk Urea Nitrogen Testing as a Management Tool. As an added value, we also have an excellent report titled "PA DHIA Nitrogen Management Report" which offers summaries by location, days in lactation, groups and averages for all components.

SAP Sample Analysis Program

DIXIE BURRIS
Laboratory Manager

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) - The Sample Analysis Program (SAP) continues to be a popular program with dairies today. Many methods already exist for keeping on-farm records accurate and convenient. At DHIA we recognize that all programs are not for everyone. We realize that our members do not need a system that offers accurate, up-to-date records in order to make intelligent management decisions for their herds and cows. This program allows dairymen to merge their farm programs with our component results, giving them a more complete idea of what is happening with their individual cows and herd.

In response to developing management systems, PA DHIA has developed an inexpensive program to supply the missing link. Many dairy herds, including the commercial management farm, use the SAP program. Dairymen need to have a quick way to detect their somatic cell cows and PA DHIA offers the information they need to

make feed adjustments using the component results. Interested dairymen may have their herd or an individual cow(s) tested for butterfat & protein, somatic cell count, MUN, true protein, lactose or a combination of these components. Dairymen do not need to have a PA DHIA technician take the sample, they can take it themselves. These programs are priced accordingly and the samples can be dropped off at any of our truck stops around the state or brought directly to our lab.

Herds that operate with electronic systems to keep track of daily milk weights can use this program to enhance their data collection with component results. The SAP program can be an added value because it helps the dairymen make changes to their feeding programs. It also serves as a way for them to monitor the Somatic Cell Count on specific cows as well as their herds. Many dairies use this program as a way to improve milk quality and thus qualify for a higher milk premium. Veterinarians use this

er component that enhances our MUN test at no additional charge to our members testing for MUN.

Our DHIA continue to be a source of information and educational material to Penn State University, University of Pennsylvania, Vo-Ag instructors, County Extension Agents, breed associations, NAAB and USDA. We pride ourselves on our commitment to Quality, Integrity, Reliability and Accuracy.

Futures Report

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it. Cars, trucks, computers, and testing equipment are being considered. We are using Farm Credit Leasing presently for over the road vehicles. This will provide most capital for program development and education.

B. A New software package has been leased to update our Finance Department.

C. A Safety Committee has been appointed to lessen accidents by employees on the farm, on the highway, and in the Lab.

D. The next staff Long Range Planning Meeting the fall of 1998 will include second level management personnel.

VI. Conclusion

The dairy industry is changing, however, progressive minded dairymen and cooperatives will prosper whether they are large or small. Our purpose is to serve our members, and we can do that better by working with other organizations that those dairymen also own. PaDHIA will grow with the dairy industry and be a catalyst for that growth.

information to identify mastitic cows. This test can assist our members by pinpointing

- Lost production due to sub-clinical (hidden) infections
- Improper milking procedures
- Milking equipment malfunction
- Percent & level of involvement in the herd
- Cows to culture for identification of bacterial cause

Our SAP program continues to help many dairies by supplying them with component results. For more information or to enroll in this program, please contact PA DHIA at 800-344-8378.

New Owner Sampler Program Adds Flexibility

DAVID BIGELOW

Training Coordinator

STATE COLLEGE (Centre Co.) - USDA has approved an owner sampler program as part of the farm record management system available through PA DHIA. Dairymen that participate in young sire programs can benefit greatly while maintaining a low cost and accurate testing program. For only 84 cents per cow plus a stop charge fee, a PA DHIA technician will deliver and pickup all testing equipment. Free, tailor made reports are available immediately to the dairymen enabling them to make quick and effective management decisions. Included in these same-day test reports are vet action reports that document future actions such as cows to dry off, pregnancy check, breed and freshening dates. These reports are beneficial to have available during herd visits by a

veterinarian or consultant and can be important time savers.

PA DHIA currently has an industry high of 83% useable records being utilized by USDA. They are invaluable when participating in young sire programs as well as maintaining an optimum dairy herd management record program. Don't miss out on these programs? Sign up today on a low cost testing program. The award-winning lab at PA DHIA offers fat, protein and somatic cell analysis for owner sampler herds while offering milk urea nitrogen analysis at a low additional fee. Finished processed reports available are barn sheets, herd summary I or II, monthly lactation reports, individual cow page each lactation, herd and cow certificates and monthly invoicing.

Don't delay. Call Dean Amick at 1-800-344-8378 and begins a PA DHIA testing program.

Change, Change, Change And More Change

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) - You have heard it before, and I will tell you again. Expect change to happen. It is happening on your farm and is happening in Agri-business, too. DHIA programs are no different. Remember, change is inevitable, happiness is optional. This is nothing new, though. I am sure you can look back and see many major changes in your lifetime that have been a benefit to your livelihood.

I am writing this because we see it happening all the time. Over the years DHIA's role on the farm has changed but not as drastically as it has in the last few years, or like it will in the next few years. Today, my discussions with dairy farmers center around the use of the information they receive from their Milk Urea Nitrogen and Somatic Cell Count tests more than butterfat or protein test results. Tests like MUN are becoming more interesting to farmers, especially, when you hear the testimonies from dairy farmers who increased their profitability \$500 or more per cow per year.

I agree with those who predict that MUN testing will be a component of milk quality payments. If

not that, the true protein (a derivative of the MUN test) will be the basis of milk pricing. MUN is connected with many functions of the dairy cow, everything from animal health, reproduction, nutrition and total milk production. This is one more tool to tell us how the cow functions and how she produces milk.

MUN is just one step into the future of what DHIA testing can tell dairy farmers about their cows. What is next, what else can we test for in milk? We know that milk quality standards are going to become more stringent. Consumers are asking for higher quality food. Besides Somatic Cell and MUN what other component of the milk may tell us a lot about milk quality.

Let's look into our crystal ball and see what may be 10 or 20 years down the road.

What is going to be different in the world of DHIA? Will we test for antibodies in a milk sample to identify animals with the onset of diseases? Will we test your cattle for genetic markers to identify the genetic value of that animal? Whatever the future holds it is necessary to be proactive and not reactive.

