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Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS)

Department of Animal Sciences

Dairy Update

Quarterly Newsletter | Vol. 10 No. 4 | Fall 2010

The Leaves Don't Change Color in the Fall in Florida. The License Plates Do.

David R. Bray

Fall is a welcome time of year for the residents and dairy cows in Florida. 2010 seemed like the hottest summer ever. Cow cooling was very difficult this summer at our University of Florida Dairy Unit. We could not evaporate water off the cows' backs fast enough with our 36" fans. Last year we had a high conception rate, this summer not so good. Clinical mastitis was also up, my guess our sand stalls were always damp and sometimes wet, and our sprinkler controllers increased water rates so we had wet cows laying in wet stalls which increased our chances of more mastitis. We have tried new fan fogger type coolers also, which increased the humidity also. We should have good data to see what worked; the data is not analyzed yet but I did not observe any cows shivering.

What I learned this summer from the Dairy Unit, and other travels:

1. We need to clean our fans around April Fool's day and again around the Fourth of July for the most cooling, especially with 36" fans.
2. Clean out the back of the freestalls in April and fill with new sand.
3. Use new sand in the summer unless you have new long flush lanes.
4. If your recycled sand looks like topsoil, it is, so spread it.
5. We need better cooling of our dry cows and springers on most dairies.
6. Make sure milk cooling equipment is clean and charged.
7. Don't keep dairy chemicals out in the sun, they lose their strength.
8. Lab. Pasteurized Counts are very important and can be expensive.
9. All rubber gaskets in the milking system need to be replaced if they are a couple years old. Hoses and jetter cups need replacing every 6 months. Pulsator lines, vacuum supply lines need to be cleaned every 6 months.
10. If your vacuum pumps are glued to the system without a trap or clean out, add one. If you can't clean the vacuum line to the pump, you are not going to keep your LPC counts low. Traps balance tank's collect milk from busted liners etc.

"Old time solution for cow care in the summer" (Not PC.): Every fall the license plates change color in Florida, because all the Yankees come down for the winter. Instead of spending all this money building barns, spending all this money to cool cows in the summers, when the Yankees leave Florida in the spring, just give each one a couple of cows to take home for the summer and they bring them back to Florida in the fall when the leaves turn color up there.

Contact Dave Bray at drbray@ufl.edu or call (352) 392-5594 ext. 226.

Natural Service vs. Timed Artificial Insemination: Cost Effectiveness and Reproductive Performance

Fabio Lima, Carlos Risco, Albert De Vries, Jose Santos, and William Thatcher

Natural service (NS) and Timed artificial insemination (TAI) are two breeding programs widely used by dairy producers as a strategy to minimize poor estrus detection of high producing lactating dairy cows. The use of NS in the US has been reported to range from 43% to 75% of the breeding program used for lactating dairy cows. The use of TAI is also widespread in the US. NAHMS (2009) reported in 2007 that 58% of dairy farms used TAI programs to manage reproduction in both heifers and cows.

Recently, a field study conducted in Florida compared reproductive performance of lactating dairy cows in a commercial dairy farm with cows bred by NS or TAI. A second study using the data from this field trial was performed to compare the cost of these two breeding programs.

Results from the field study showed that 21 days cycle pregnancy rates, which included a total of 8 and 5 service opportunities for NS and TAI, respectively, was not different between the groups (25.7% and 25.0% for NS and TAI, respectively). The daily rate of pregnancy was 15% greater (e.g. 1.41% vs. 1.22%) for NS than TAI, which resulted in fewer median days open (111 vs. 116 days) and a greater proportion of pregnant cows at 223 days in milk was greater for NS (Figure 1).

The greater proportion of pregnant cows observed in the NS group at the end of the study was attributed to differences in breeding dynamics between groups. In the NS group, bulls had the potential for daily detection of estrus and breeding of nonpregnant cows. On the other hand, because of the TAI resynchronization scheme, nonpregnant cows in this group required 35 day to be reinseminated, and thus the number of days to become pregnant increased. Therefore within this scenario, cows in the TAI group had only

5 opportunities to be bred compared with a potential 8 times for cows in the NS group up to 223 days in milk. The increased median number of days to pregnancy observed for TAI cows can also be attributed to this difference in breeding opportunities. A greater number of nonpregnant cows in the NS group had earlier opportunities to be bred than TAI cows under the same 21-day cycle pregnancy rates; consequently the final outcome for median time to pregnancy favored the NS. Therefore, the greater interval between inseminations reduced the proportion of pregnant cows on the TAI breeding program.

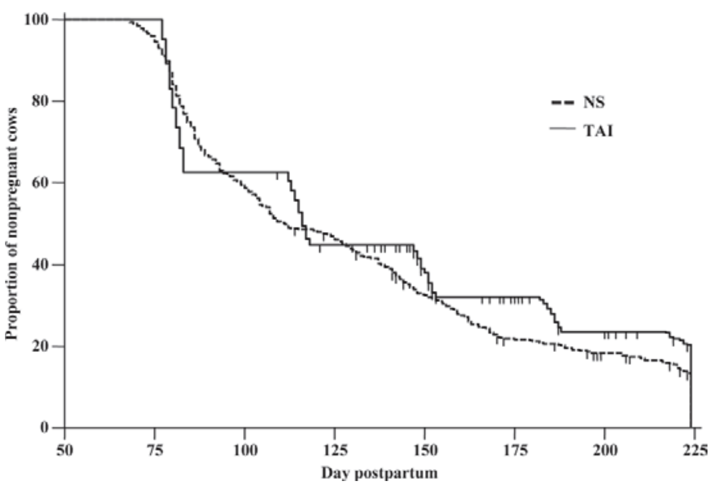

Figure 1. Survival curves for proportion of nonpregnant cows by days in milk (DIM) for cows bred by natural service (NS) or timed AI (TAI) in the first 223 DIM. Median interval to pregnancy for NS and TAI groups was 111 (95% confidence interval [CI] = 104 to 125 days) and 116 DIM (95% CI = 115 to 117 days), respectively. The rate of pregnancy in the 223 DIM was greater for NS than TAI (adjusted hazard ratio = 1.15; 95% CI = 1.00 to 1.31).

The second study used the reproductive performance results obtained in the first study as a platform to compare the cost of NS and TAI. A herd budget accounting for all costs and revenues was created. The final results showed a net cost for the NS program of $100.49/cow per year and for the TAI program of $67.80/cow per year, unadjusted for differences in voluntary waiting period (VWP) for first insemination and the minor differences in pregnancy rates. After inclusion of the differences in VWP and pregnancy rates, the economic advantage of the TAI program was $9.73/cow per year. Costs per day of cow eligible for insemination was $1.45 for the NS program and $1.06 for the TAI program. When marginal feed cost was increased from $3 to $5/cwt (1 cwt = 45.36 kg), the advantage of TAI increased to $48.32/cow per year. If higher milk prices and greater genetic progress were assumed, the advantage of TAI increased. When semen price increased from $6 to $22, the NS program had an economic advantage of $33.29/cow per year. If each NS bull was replaced by an additional cow, the advantage of the TAI program was $60.81/cow per year. Using a pregnancy rate for both programs of 18% and the VWP at 80 days, there was an advantage of $37.87/cow per year for the TAI program.

The major factor that influenced the greater cost of NS was the cost of feeding the bulls, which was 38 and 61% of total bull costs ($163.59) and net cost ($100.49), respectively, for NS. Semen cost and genetic merit were the variables that caused the biggest impact on the profitability of TAI.

In conclusion, the slight advantage of NS in reproductive performance with a greater proportion of pregnant cows after 223 days in milk was offset by a cost advantage in favor of the TAI breeding program. The use of NS bulls is not necessarily a more expensive method for breeding cows to avoid problems related to estrus detection. An increase in AI semen cost could result in a cost advantage of the NS program. However, an increase in marginal feed cost and a greater genetic advantage from AI sires would increase the economic advantage of the TAI program.

These studies were published in Journal of Dairy Science 92(11):5456 (2009) and 93(9):4404-4413 (2010). *Contact Dr. Carlos Risco, UF College of Veterinary Medicine, at riscoc@ufl.edu or call (352) 294-4320 for more information.*

Effects of Feeding a Mycotoxin-Adsorbent on Milk Aflatoxin M_1 Concentration and on the Performance and Immune Response of Dairy Cattle Fed an Aflatoxin Contaminated Diet

Gbola Adesogan, Oscar Queiroz, Charlie Staples, and J. Hun

Milk contaminated with aflatoxin at concentrations greater than 0.5 parts per billion (ppb) is illegal to sell because people consuming aflatoxins have a greater risk of developing cancer. Aflatoxins can enter the milk if the diet contains feeds with aflatoxins. Clay products can be included in the diet to bind the aflatoxin and prevent it from being absorbed from the digestive tract and transferred to the milk. The objective of this study was to test the effectiveness of a clay-based feed additive (Calibrin A adsorbent, Amlan International, Chicago, IL) fed at 2 levels to reduce aflatoxin transfer to milk from cows fed diets contaminated with aflatoxins. Eight cows in late lactation were used in an experiment that allowed all cows to receive each of four dietary treatments. Treatments were the following: 1) Control diet; 2) Toxin diet (the Control diet plus 75 ppb of aflatoxin B_1 mixed with ground corn); 3) Low-clay diet, which was the Toxin diet plus adsorbent fed at 0.2% of dietary dry matter; and 4) High-clay diet, which was the Toxin diet plus adsorbent fed at 1% of dietary dry matter. Dietary treatments did not affect dry matter intake, milk yield, or feed efficiency of the cows. Feeding the Toxin diet instead of the Control diet tended to reduce yield of 3.5% fat-correct milk from 46 to 42 lb/day and reduced milk fat yield from 1.6 to 1.5 lb/day and milk protein concentration from 3.36% to 3.28%. However, yield of 3.5% corrected milk did not differ statistically in cows fed Control, Low Clay and High Clay diets (46, 45 and 43 lb/day). Concentrations of aflatoxin M_1 in the milk of cows fed the Toxin and Low Clay diets were similar (0.63 and 0.65 ppb) and greater than those of cows fed the High Clay diet (0.48 ppb), but cows fed the Control diet only had trace levels (0.03 ppb). Therefore, the High Clay diet kept aflatoxin M_1 concentration below the FDA action level but the Low Clay diet did not. As expected the immune system of cows fed the aflatoxin without the clay product in the diet was increased based upon increased blood concentration of haptoglobin

(22.0 vs. 14.4) and β2-integrin (220 vs. 130), which are immune response markers. Immune response values for cows fed Clay diets did not differ from cows fed the Control diet. Feeding either of the Clay diets prevented the increased immune response and prevented the decrease in milk yield caused by the Toxin. However, milk aflatoxin M_1 concentration was only reduced by feeding the High Clay diet. *Contact Gbola Adesogan at adesogan@ufl.edu or call (352) 392-7527.*

Managing Milk Quality and Profit in the Parlor

David R. Bray

<u>The milking parlor is the heart of the dairy operation</u>. What happens here determines the profits or losses of the dairy. In order to have an efficient milking operation every shift of every day, everyone involved must perform their job to the standard set by the dairy, hopefully with input from the employees.

The dairy cow is a creature of habit and likes things done the same every day, from when she is fed, to when she comes to the parlor and the procedures used to milk her. While much of the credit for producing high quality milk, or the blame for not producing high quality milk, is given to the milking crew, there must be cooperation from the rest of the labor force. If the bedding crew does not bed the stalls often enough and the cows lay in dirty stalls, they gets mastitis there. If the feed crew does not have feed for the cows when the cows come back from the parlor, they are going to lay down without eating which makes for lower production. If no one maintains the milking equipment, such as the pulsators and vacuum controls, milking time may be increased, teats could be damaged and mastitis could increase.

<u>Milking procedures.</u> There are many ways to milk cows successfully. The procedures used depend on the type of parlor, the labor available and number of cows to be milked and how often they are milked. The most important thing is that every cow on each shift should be milked the same every time! Everyone can agree that all cows milked should be pre-dipped and have clean dry teats before the units are attached and post-dipped after milking with a dip cup, not sprayed.

In a well-managed parlor the cows should come in by themselves with no one going into the holding area unless there are only a few cows at the end of the herd are left. Fetching cows only demonstrates how the cows have trained the milkers, and cows are multiple–lingual: they ignore cussing in any language.

Once the first cow gets into her stall the prep process should begin. One of the most common milking regiments is for the milker to predip and immediately strip cow number one and continue through cows four or five, depending on the size of parlor. After these cows are pre-dipped and stripped, move back to the first cow and completely wipe off the predip and hang the units on these four or five cows. In large parlors another milker would start on the next four or five cows and would dip, dry and hang. This gives order to the milking parlor and cows are stimulated properly and the predip has time to kill bacteria and every cow will have at least 60 seconds from stimulation to application of the unit. After unit removal, the teats should be post dipped with a dip cup to the base of the udder with an approved teat dip. There are many other milking schemes that are and can be used, whatever one uses should be consistent. But these procedures must include milking clean dry udders and teats and post milking teat dipping.

<u>Milk quality monitoring</u>. Monitor these 5 milk quality characteristics:

1. Somatic cell count (mastitis)
2. Standard plate count (bacteria count)
3. Antibiotic residues
4. Lab pasteurized count - standard plate count on pasteurized milk (shelf- life)
5. Preliminary Incubation count (Psychrotrophs: cold loving organisms)

<u>How do we monitor progress?</u> Set goals for all things to be monitored. These goals can be in the job description of each employee and addressed at evaluations. Once a dairy has its procedures in place, how does management know if the job is being properly done at every milking and how do the milkers know if what they are doing makes a difference? All jobs done on a dairy are done for a purpose. If this is explained to the milkers then they should be able to monitor themselves if given the tools to do so.

<u>Tools for management to monitor progress</u>:

1. Video surveillance of the milking operation, holding pen, tank room
2. Milk quality reports from milk plants
3. Consistency of milking times, cows milked per hour, etc.
4. Consistency of milk yields. Milk per shifts, per hour, etc.
5. Observations and interactions with milkers in the parlor

<u>Tools for milkers to monitor their progress</u>:

1. Management should post items 2. thru 4. above on a message board in the parlor area. Every shift can the milkers then see how they are performing compared to their goals and compared to other shifts.
2. Check teat dippers both pre and post for sand, dried manure and bedding. If pre dippers fill up with sand or bedding, stall management is not as it should be. If post dip cups are dirty, pre milking prep is inadequate.
3. Check inside of the top of the liners. If full of sand or manure the pre milking process is not being done. More towels and effort are needed to get cows clean.
4. Milk filters when changed should be saved and observed by management and milkers – displayed on a pipe or hung on and kept for a day in a clear sealed plastic bag. If full of gargot, dirt, bedding etc., everyone can see and improvements can be made. Filters should be changed after each herd in large herds, in hot weather every couple hours to prevent bacteria growing in the filters.

<u>Monitoring bacteria counts</u>:

1. Bacteria counts can come from cows with mastitis, inadequate cooling, poor wash up, and insufficient hot water temperature. 160^0 F is needed. Poor soap concentrations and failure to wash or sanitize the tanks will raise counts.

2. A bulk tank wash and sanitize report can be made to record who washed and who sanitized and when. Sometimes the milk truck is late and it's impossible to wash the tank. This needs to be recorded and saves trying to find out why you have a high count and someone needs to talk to the tank truck dispatcher.
3. Checking hot water temperature should be part of the maintenance schedule.

Summary. It is easy to produce high quality milk if everyone is trained properly and management and workers work with each other to achieve the goals set for the dairy. If you write rules and don't enforce them, they are a waste of time, paper and labor. *Contact Dave Bray at drbray@ufl.edu or call (352) 392-5594 ext. 226.*

Florida Dairy Producer Don Bennink Named 2010 World Dairy Expo Dairyman of the Year

A junior high school job was a golden opportunity for 2010 World Dairy Expo Dairyman of the Year, Don Bennink, of North Florida Holsteins in Bell, Fla. Though there was no farm in the family while Bennink was growing up in western New York, he worked for others and began building a herd of his own while a youth. After obtaining a degree from Cornell, he rented a farm with a 35 tie-stall barn in his home county. Supported by a small Farmers Home Administration loan and the cattle already owned, he accumulated, during the next seventeen years, the capital base to move the herd to Florida in 1980.

Today, the successful dairy breeder and his partners boast a herd of 4,000 milking age Registered Holsteins, the single largest dairy in the state and one of the largest Registered Holstein herds in the country. Bennink has led the innovation of dairy cattle comfort with tunnel ventilation to enhance production and herd health.

The 100 percent registered herd boasts a rolling average of 24,330 pounds of milk with almost 800 pounds of fat and 650 pounds of protein. The farm has developed over 750 cows classified as Excellent and consistently ranks on cooperative quality honor rolls and receives premier breeder and exhibitor recognition.

As an innovator, Bennink is sought for his efficiency and genetics advice in many countries. He has been an early adaptor of monitoring technology and environmental protection practices, including research trials of drugs and feed additives with the University of Florida School of Veterinary Medicine.

In the board room, the Dairyman of the Year has supported the cattle industry and his local community serving on cooperative, college and governmental boards and councils. He is a host to foreign and domestic visitors continually promoting superior U.S. genetics.

The 2010 Dairyman of the Year award is sponsored by: Animart, Dairy Herd Management, Intervet/Schering Plough Animal Health and Southeast Milk, Inc.

(Taken from Expo Daily Edition, September 30, 2010)

Effect of a Bacterial Inoculant on the Quality of and Nutrient Losses from Corn Silage Produced in Farm-Scale Silos

Oscar Queiroz, Gbola Adesogan, Kathy Arriola and Maria Queiroz

Many previous studies have shown that applying inoculants containing *Lactobacillus buchneri* to corn silage reduced counts of yeasts that cause spoilage and increased the bunk life of the silage. However, most of such studies were conducted in mini silos, therefore little information exists on the efficacy of such inoculants in farm scale silos. This project aimed to determine effects of applying an inoculant containing *Lactobacillus buchneri* bacteria on the fermentation, aerobic stability, and nutrient losses from corn silage produced in farm-scale silos. Corn forage was harvested at 34% DM and treated without (Control) or with an inoculant (Buchneri 500, Llallemand Animal Nutrition) containing *Lactobacillus buchneri* and *Pediococcus pentosaceus*. Forty-five tons of inoculant-treated and untreated forage was packed into 12-ft-wide Ag bags and ensiled for 166 days. Four bags were prepared for the control treatment and four additional bags for the inoculant treatment. Silage was removed from the bags at the rate of 1000 lb/d for 35 d. On each day, spoiled silage (darker, heating, or moldy silage) was separated from good silage and weighed. Inoculant treatment decreased the quantity (1,200 versus 2,923 lb DM) and percentage (3.4 versus 7.8) of spoiled silage in the bags by over 50%. Inoculation reduced daily losses of crude protein in spoiled silage from 2 to 0.5 lb/day), reduced total energy losses from 1.84 to 0.43 Mcal/day), and reduced neutral detergent fiber losses from 9 to 3 lb/day. Inoculation reduced lactic acid concentration from 0.86 to 0.69% and increased acetic acid concentration from 0.73 to 1.15%. This implies that inoculant treatment shifted the fermentation in a way that made acetic acid the dominant fermentation product. Because acetic acid inhibits the growth of spoilage causing yeasts, inoculation reduced the population of yeasts by 44% and this led to a 30% increase in the bunk life of the silage. Therefore, applying the inoculant inhibited the growth of yeasts, and substantially reduced the amount of spoilage and the associated energy and nutrient losses. *Contact Gbola Adesogan at adesogan@ufl.edu or call (352) 392-7527.*

Prediction of the Future Florida Mailbox Price: October 2010 - September 2011

Albert De Vries

In the Summer 2010 issue of Dairy Update I described how the realized Florida mailbox price closely follows the Class III price announced monthly by USDA.

The mailbox price is defined as the net price received by dairy farmers for milk, including all payments received for milk sold and deducting costs associated with marketing the milk, including hauling. Beginning with January 1995, the Dairy Programs section of the USDA-Agricultural Marketing Service, through its Federal milk order market administrator offices, began collecting and publishing mailbox milk prices. Typically, mailbox prices are released by USDA about 3.5 months following the month for which the prices apply.

The Class III futures markets provide daily settle prices for monthly contracts up to 24 months into the future. These settle prices are the unbiased predictors of what the market (the traders) believes will be the announced Class III price for that month in the future. These contracts are traded almost every day, so these settle prices change often. The close relationship between the realized Florida mailbox prices and the announced Class III prices, and the availability of Class III futures prices, provide an opportunity to predict the future Florida mailbox prices.

Economists of the University of Wisconsin developed a formula to predict the Florida mailbox price from the Class III prices. The formula is: Florida mailbox price = 0.888 x (Class III price) -0.541 (Q1) -1.511 (Q2) -0.092 (Q3) -0.000 (Q4) +6.208 where Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4 are 0 or 1 depending on whether the price pertains to quarters 1, 2, 3 or 4. For the Class III price, we use the Class III futures settle price for months into the future. The formula was developed by regressing the Florida mailbox price on the Class III price from 2001-01-01 to 2010-03-01. The inclusion of the 4 quarters implies that the difference between the Class III price and the Florida mailbox price is the smallest in the spring (Q2) and the greatest in the fall (Q4).

Using the Class III future settle prices of October 5, 2010 and the formula, we predict the Florida mailbox price for October 2010 to July 2011 as follows:

Month	Year	Class III settle price*	Predicted Florida mailbox price
October	2010	16.63	20.98
November	2010	16.11	20.51
December	2010	15.20	19.71
January	2011	14.45	18.50
February	2011	13.84	17.96
March	2011	13.81	17.93
April	2011	13.89	17.02
May	2011	13.90	17.03
June	2011	14.00	17.12
July	2011	14.40	18.90
August	2011	14.74	19.21
September	2011	14.99	19.43

Class III settle price as of October 5, 2010.

For more information, contact Albert De Vries, devries@ufl.edu or (352) 392-5594 ext 227.

Effect of Days to Conception in the Previous Lactation on the Risk of Death and Live Culling Around Calving

Pablo Pinedo and Albert De Vries

Extended days open may increase the risk of overconditioning of cows toward the end of their lactation because milk yield is then typically lower while feed intake is less reduced. These cows may have an increased risk of death or live culling around the subsequent calving because of related metabolic problems. This combination of disease conditions in the obese cow has been termed the “fat cow syndrome”. Just how much days open affects the risk of death and culling around the next calving was unclear.

Therefore, the objective of this study was to quantify the effect of days to conception (days open) in the previous parity on the risk of death and live culling (excluding the disposal reasons “dairy purposes” and “death”) in the proximity of a subsequent calving in Holstein cows enrolled in the Dairy Herd Improvement program.

After edits, 2,075,834 observations of cows calving between 2001 and 2007 in herds located in 36 US states primarily east of the Mississippi river were available. The period at risk included the time between 14 days before expected calving to 60 days after calving. We also looked at the risk of death or culling at the end of the gestation period because the calving event may not have been reported if death or culling occurred just before or during calving,

Days open were categorized in 6 periods: 0 to 45, 46 to 90, 91 to 150, 151 to 210, 211 to 300, and 301 to 600 days after calving in the previous parity. Other variables of interest included parity, length of the dry period before calving, relative last test-day milk yield before dry off before calving, season of calving, and the cow’s relative 305-d mature equivalent (305ME) milk yield before calving.

Means for the risk of death between 14 days before and 60 days after subsequent calving were 2.5, 2.5, 2.9, 3.6, 4.4, and 5.8% for increasing categories of days open (figure 1). Similarly, for the same categories, means for the risk of live culling were 4.5, 5.0, 5.4, 6.1, 6.9, and 8.1% across all parities (figure 2). The effect of days open on the risk of death was slightly greater for third-parity cows, for long dry periods, for cows with low test-day milk yield before dry off before calving, for spring calvings, and for intermediate relative 305ME milk yield before calving. Similar trends for these interactions were found for the risk of live culling, except for relative 305ME milk yield before calving, where the effect of days open was more pronounced for high producing cows. Thus, increased days open in the previous parity were associated with a greater risk of death and live culling around calving. We found an increase in the risk of death and live culling as a result of extra days open for 90% of the herds included in our study.

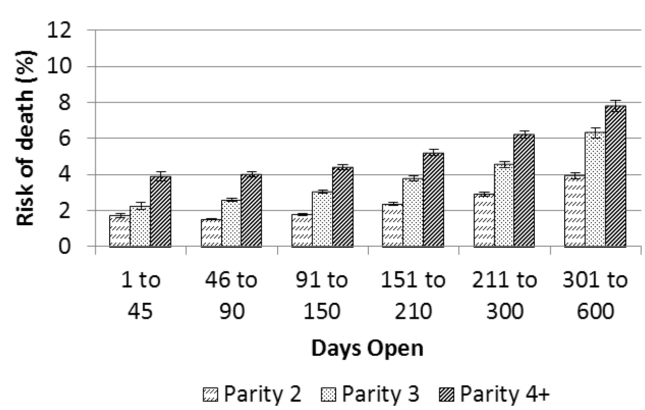

Figure 1. Risk (%) of death around calving for 6 categories of days open in the previous parity depending on parity number.

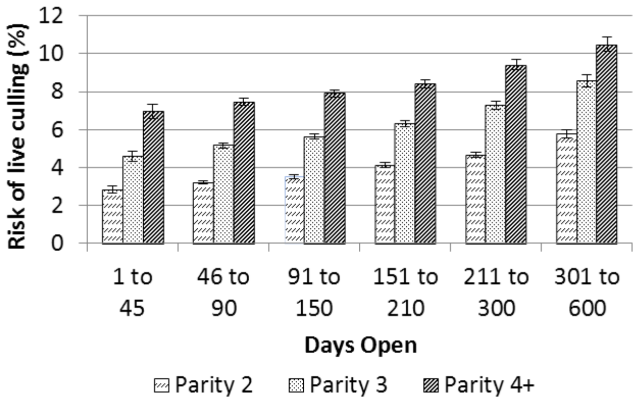

Figure 2. Risk (%) of culling around calving for 6 categories of days open in the previous parity depending on parity number.

What is the economic effect of these risks? An involuntary live cull just after calving costs approximately $1000. A death just after calving costs approximately $1500. Most of this is opportunity cost of lost future income.

The risk of death around calving increased approximately 0.008% per extra day open in the first parity. For the second and greater parities, the risks of death around calving increased by 0.013% and 0.014%, respectively. The expected costs due to increased death risk are therefore $0.12, $0.20, and $0.20 per extra day open, respectively.

The risk of live culling increased approximately 0.010%, 0.013% and 0.012% per extra day open in the first, second, and greater parities. Because live culling is a bit less costly than death (I assumed a $500 cull income), the expected costs due to increased live culling risk are therefore $0.10, $0.13, and $0.12 per extra day open.

Together, an extra day open in the first parity costs approximately $0.22 and for older cows it is $0.33 due to extra death and culling alone. These costs are in addition to other costs that determine the total cost per day open such as reduced milk yield, extra labor etc. Total cost per day open are typically estimated to be from $0 (early in lactation) to more than $6 per day open (late in lactation) but cost due to extra death and culling have usually not been included.

This study was published in Journal of Dairy Science 93(3):68 (2010). *Contact Albert De Vries, devries@ufl.edu or (352) 392-5594 ext 227.*

Knowledge is Power

Mary Sowerby

Feed commodity prices have been on the way up, while milk futures prices are perilously plateaued. Meanwhile, fuel prices may play an over-riding effect on all other commodity prices. Although all these issues may seem out of your control, as the saying goes, "Knowledge is power."

On Tuesday, October 19, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lafayette County Extension Office, 176 SW Community Circle, Mayo, a two-fold meeting will be held.

1. Fresh from the Southern Outlook Meeting held September 27-29 in Atlanta, Dr. John VanSickle, from the UF Food and Resource Economics Department, will be sharing the outlooks on feed and livestock commodities, along with the overall view of how these could affect your bottom-line.
2. A discussion will be held on how this information can be useful to you for potential advance purchasing or other risk management strategies.

In addition, for those interested in the futures market for risk management, we will discuss using Dr. VanSickle's FACTsim program (which gives participants the opportunities to make mock trades on the futures market with real time data, but not real money) with dairy farm data to practice "pulling triggers" to buy and sell commodities and determine farm financial results.

If you are interested in coming to this program, but live too far from Mayo to attend, please contact Mary Sowerby at (386) 362-2771, or email meso@ufl.edu, by Tuesday, October 21, to see if more local arrangements can be made by Polycom.

Dairy Extension Agenda

- Knowledge is Power meeting, **October 19**, at 7:00 pm in Mayo, FL. See elsewhere in this newsletter. Contact Mary Sowerby (meso@ufl.edu or (386) 362-2771).

- Southeast Dairy Herd Management Conference, **November 3-4** in Macon, GA. Program on http://dairy.ifas.ufl.edu Contact Steve Nickerson at scn@uga.edu.

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