

EXPERIENCE WITH BST

Don Bennink, North Florida Holsteins, Bell, FL
Mike Carey, H & C Dairy, Lakeland, FL

Comments by them that are summarized here
were from notes made by H. H. Van Horn and others

We regret that we did not tape this and other panel discussions that were a part of the conference program. This discussion was one of the highlights of the conference and this brief report does not fully report what was said.

These dairies chose a relatively conservative approach to using BST. North Florida Holsteins treated cows after 250 days-in-milk. No declines in body condition scores were observed. In the future, they plan to begin treatment at 200 days-in-milk and see how that works. They found that BST allowed more time to get the slow breeding cows pregnant and still produce more milk than normal while maintaining body condition score.

H & C Dairy did not treat cows milking more than 70 pounds of milk. Mike Carey indicated that BST helped remove excess body condition from cows while extending the lactation period. If cows continue to milk well enough with BST, longer lactation periods with 400 to 600 days between calvings can be profitable and may be preferred.