Reproductive Management System
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April 30, 2002

US Size of Operations

US Dairy Operation Size

Year
Number of Operations
1-29 Head
30-49 Head
50-99 Head
100-199 Head
200+ Head
Power (200+ Head)

Labor Source

- The US labor force available for on farm labor continues to decrease
- RMS Representatives provide expert skillsets to their dairies 365 days per year

RMS Coverage

- Large Herd Emphasis
- 50-60% market share in Western US
- Cloned to expansion markets of Midwest
- Experience, Knowledge, and Pregnant cows

WHAT is RMS?

- RMS is a systems approach to management of a dairy’s reproductive program.
- RMS ensures a consistent supply of pregnant animals to the production cycle…
- Pregnant animals are fundamental to the long term success of the operation

RMS offers:

- Labor Source
- Teamwork
- Consistency
- Accountability
- Genetic Advantages
- Technical Services
TEAMWORK

- Specified goals and programs are agreed upon by the entire TEAM
- Assessment of bottlenecks and solutions

CONSISTENCY

- Management of labor is simplified
- Standardized procedures result in consistent results
- RMS representative is responsible for implementation of reproductive program

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Consistent data input and interpretation of reports
- RMS monitoring allows trends to be identified and necessary actions taken

GENETIC ADVANTAGE

- RMS provides more animals of a higher genetic value to be born each year.
- Increase AI vs Natural Service
- Reduction of Inbreeding

TECHNICAL SERVICES

- Regional data merge sets allow herd comparisons
- On site visits and troubleshooting
- Consulting Services
- Field based Research

Vet Relationships

- RMS Team member
- Delivery of RMS Services
- ABS Representative
- Udder Health products
- Consulting Network
RMS Training

- Identify Target herds with DSM/DM
- In field training with designated trainers to pre-qualify
- Classroom training in Records Analysis, Nutrition, Reproduction, and Large Herd Decisions.
- Testing and certification

Why RMS

“The Dairyman’s View”

- Consistency of Delivery
- Best way for many large herds to heat detect
- Shift responsibility from manager to technician
- Additional personal for a minimal cost
- Qualified people hard to find
- Lack of Pregnancy production
- Team player

Veterinarian Perspective

- Communication
  - implementing programs (marking system)
  - goals and objectives
  - Herdcheck results (chalk talk)
- Tag Teaming to address issues on farm
- Improved Implementation of the reproductive program

Breeding Schedules

- Can we detect and breed once daily and get comparable results?
- The answer is YES!

Research:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OLD MEASURE</th>
<th>NEW MEASURE</th>
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<td>Trimberger and Davis, 1943 is basis for the am/pm rule (44% vs 82%)</td>
<td>Nebel, 1994 &amp; Graves, 1997</td>
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RMS Logistics

- Animal Health
- Management Style (Innovators, early adopters)
- Facilities (headlocks, layout, footing, etc.)
- Milking time
- Feeding schedule
- Grouping
- Records
- Management TEAM
- Start small…. (Speed and Efficiency later….)
Chalk Talk

- BLUE---FRESH COWS
- ORANGE---OPEN
- GREEN---PREGNANT and spray paint “P” on rump
- OVSYNCH---Cross over hooks each time shot and then date to be bred when Lut
- LUTALYSE--L on Rump
- DIRTY COW given LUT--C on rump
- CLOSE TO HEAT--Green on lumbar spine
- BREED--Date on Rump when chalked

Cows And/or Heifers

- Nutritionally sound
- Healthy
- Fertile
- Heifers (adequate weight and age)
- Cycling and expressing heat
- Clean
- Grouped appropriately
- East to read ID

Facilities

- Headlocks
- Adequate footing
- Not overcrowded
- Cross gates
- Good cow comfort
- Adequate feed bunk space
- Good ventilation
- Good water supply
- Clean

Heat Detection Flowchart

- Environment
- Nutrition
- Heat Stress
- Mineral Status
- Socialization and Grouping
- Feeding
- Footing
- Crowding
- Detection Aids
- Experience
- Consistency
- Socialization and Grouping
- Injury/Body Condition
- Feet and legs
- Heat Stress
- Feedbunk Mgmt
- Freestall Use
- Parlor Turn Time
- Formulation/Delivery
- Accuracy of Heats
- Infectious Disease
- Discomfort
- Hygiene
- VWP
- Disease
- Heat Stress
- Processing
- Storage and Handling
- Hygiene
- Technique
- Placement
- External Factors
- Conception Rate
- Conception Rate
- Semen
- Cow Factors
- Labor

Conception Rate Flowchart

Pregnancy Inventory by week
Summary

- Are we getting semen in cows in a specified time? (detection)
- Are animals cycling normally @ VWP (cyclicity)
- Are we getting semen in cows that are in heat? (accuracy)
- Are cows getting pregnant in a specified time (pregnancy risk rate)
- Is the rate of animals pregnant per time to sustain the production cycle? (hard count)