A Producer Perspective on Using Reproductive Technologies

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Perspective on Reproductive Technologies

Blair Brothers Angus Ranch

• 1,200 mother cows
• 400-500 bred heifers
• Sell approximately 350-500 bulls annually
• 1,700 steers purchased from bull customers
• Inseminated 330 heifers purchased from bull customers

Heifers

MGA\textsuperscript{a}.PG

Heifers

\textbf{HEAT DETECT \& TIME AI (TAI)}
Select Synch + CIDR\textsuperscript{b} \& TAI

Heat detect and AI day 7 to 10 and TAI all non-responders
72 - 84 hr after PG with GelEI \& TAI

www.selectsires.com
Heifers

14-day CIDR®-PG & TAI
Heat detect and AI day 30 to 33 and TAI all non-responders 72 hrs after PG with GnRH at TAI.

Heat detect & AI

Heifers – Wet 2 year old vs. Aged cow
- Wet 2 → 36 hrs pull 40-50%
- Aged cow → 48 hrs pull 40-50%

Cows

Heat Detection
Select Synch

Select Synch + CIDR® & TAI
Heat detect and AI day 7 to 10 and TAI all non-responders 72 - 84 hr after PG with GnRH at TAI.
**Cows**

- CIDRs vs. Select Synch
  - CIDRs allow us to set up multiple groups of cows in the same week
  - CIDRs allow us to breed 3.5 times the amount of cows compared to breeding on natural heats
    - With same amount of labor and time
  - Select Synch required us to heat detect prior to PG shot
    - Cheaper option but not as time efficient with multiple groups

- 2nd Cycle
  - Results in 77-87% of the group AI bred in 25 days
  - Range depends on cow age
    - More challenging with young cows

**Ultrasound**

- Ibex Pro
  - Battery operated
  - Set up portable corrals and preg check where and when we need to

**Calving**

- So does all this result in all cows calving in 2 days?

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2015 Range Beef Cow Symposium, Loveland, Colo.
Heifer calving distribution by gestation days

Nine year average synchronized heifer calving distribution

Eleven year average synchronized cow calving distribution

Calving

• Example
  — If you synchronize 100 cows and 75 stick AI
  • Expect to have 7-8 calves in the peak 24 hour period

2015 Range Beef Cow Symposium, Loveland, Colo.
Calving

• 50% of heifers would breed back as 3-year olds before we fed a balanced ration
• With proper nutrition we get 65% of heifers to breed in first cycle and additional 10% in the second cycle

Advantages of Calving Synchronized Cattle

• Limits amount of labor required
• Continual calving
  — Lose less calves because that is the focus
• Large groups of same age calves
  — Improves vaccination effectiveness
• Cows are at appropriate days post-partum to continue in our system

Cow calving distribution by gestation days

Embryo Transfer

• Flushed 25-30 cows every 60 days
  — Froze embryos
• Setting up donor cows
  — Labor intensive
• Results
  — Undesirable conception rate
  — Donor cows dropped out
  — Results did not align with goals
  • Currently to expand numbers we keep more heifers to breed and AI second cycles longer

In vitro Fertilization

• First attempt in 2015
  — Advantages
    • Keeps cows in production
    • Less labor
  — Results
  • ???
Conclusion

• Technology allows us to be a “least cost/value-added producer”

• Through the use of technology we have been able to expand the ranch and bring the next generation in without sacrificing

Selling private treaty bulls Feb 2016
www.blairbrosangus.com
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