A Producer Perspective on Using Reproductive Technologies

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Blair Brothers Angus Ranch
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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®-PG**

1. MGA
2. PG
3. PG
4. Heat detect & AI

Heifers

**HEAT DETECT & TIME AI (TAI)**

Select Synch + CIDR® & TAI

Heat detect and AI day 7 to 10 and TAI all non-responders

72 - 84 hr after PG with GeSEH or TAI

www.selectsires.com
Heifers

Heifers

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

www.selectsires.com

Cows

HEAT DETECTION
Select Synch

Cows

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.

www.selectsires.com

Cows

- Wet 2 year old vs. Aged cow
  - Wet 2 \( \rightarrow \) 36 hrs pull 40-50%
  - Aged cow \( \rightarrow \) 48 hrs pull 40-50%

www.selectsires.com
Cows

• CIDRs vs. Select Synch
  – CIDRs allow us to set up multiple group 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

Cows

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

Ultrasound

• Adding value
  – Identify late calvers to sell as breds vs. weigh-ups
  – Typically sell all bull breds

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?
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
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

Cow calving distribution by gestation days

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

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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