

Teat sealant lowers SCC in first calf heifers

More than 50 percent of first calf heifers freshen with an intramammary infection in one or more quarters. These infections result in lower milk production and increased treatment costs.

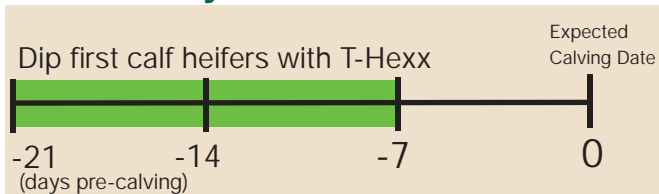
In a study conducted by Todd Charnetzki, the Ripple Group, LLC it was shown that the application of an external dry cow sealant one to three weeks prior to calving lowers clinical infections and SCC.

Heifers chosen for the study were anticipated to calve within 45 days. Each heifer was treated two weeks prior to the expected calving date by dipping one front and one rear teat with T-Hexx®

Dry™. Additionally, a control group of heifers who were not dipped with T-Hexx Dry were also observed. Three to eight days post-calving quarter samples were taken and SCCs were recorded.

The result: quarters dipped with T-Hexx Dry had lower SCC than quarters not dipped: 201,380 SCC compared to 307,080 SCC. Furthermore, clinical infections were significantly lower in quarters dipped with T-Hexx Dry. The infection rate was only 8.57 percent in dipped quarters, compared to 18.57 percent in un-dipped quarters and 22.37 percent in the control group. ☆

T-Hexx Dry recommended use



Monitor pregnancy rate with DHI data

Getting cows bred this summer was difficult. As a result there are a lot of open cows right now, which means pregnancy rates are low. Now is the time to pay close attention to your herd's pregnancy rate and start making strides to improve it. Breeding as many eligible cows as possible will have the greatest impact on improving pregnancy rate. Your goal should be to breed at least 60 percent of all eligible cows.

Using your DHI data can make identifying eligible cows and monitoring your herd's pregnancy rate quite easy. When using PCDART, a User Report can be created to identify all eligible cows to breed. When creating the report you choose which parameters determine "if" a cow is eligible (open cows, cows serviced – not confirmed pregnant, etc.). Once the User Report is created, those cows can be put into a temporary group

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 1

top health traits, high udder composite scores, feet and leg specialists and high reliability.



How do you get the best results?

The best results with gender SELECTed semen are achieved when you pay strict attention to the details of semen handling and timing of inseminations. It is recommended that gender SELECTed semen only be used in well-managed virgin heifers. It is best if heifers are inseminated 12 hours after observed estrus.

Following this protocol, the many research herds using gender SELECTed semen have experienced very acceptable conception rates. Averages indicate well-managed herds that achieve 60 – 65 percent conception rates in virgin heifers with traditional semen may expect 45 to 50 percent conception with gender SELECTed semen.

Is there sufficient data to back-up product claims?

In the 1980s a breakthrough in semen sexing technology was made by USDA researchers in the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in California. The patents for this technology were licensed to a company named XY Inc. of Fort Collins, Colorado, which has performed a considerable amount of research during the 1990s to optimize efficiency of these sorting procedures. Commercialization of sexed semen in the United States was initiated with a 2003 license granted to Sexing Technologies in Navasota, Texas.

Select Sires works closely with Sexing Technologies using their technology to make gender SELECTed semen. In addition to their research, Select Sires has been conducting extensive field trials since 2001 and continues research today.

What are the benefits of "sexed semen"?

"Sexed semen" produces more heifer calves which allows you to expand herd size internally and avoid the potential

dangers of importing disease from purchased animals. More heifers also means the opportunity for more selective culling and the potential to sell extra heifers.

Less difficult births for first calf heifers is another reason to consider using "sexed semen". According to the National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB) only 5.3 percent of births are difficult when a heifer is born, compared to 10.9 percent when a bull is born. Fewer calving problems offers several economic and health benefits including increased milk production, more live calves, less labor to care for post-fresh heifers and sick calves and the list goes on and on.

Through ongoing and comprehensive research, Select Sires is able to offer the highest-quality product with gender SELECTed semen. No other source in the industry offers the experience and research that backs gender SELECTed semen. For more information on the benefits of choosing the gender SELECTed brand visit with your area NorthStar representative. ☆