

## 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.

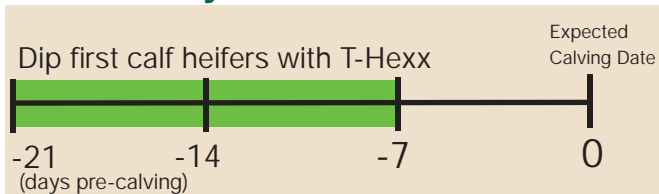
In a study conducted by Todd Charnetzki, the Ripple Group, LLC it was shown that the application of an external dry cow sealant one to three weeks prior to calving lowers clinical infections and SCC.

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. ☆



## CIDR insert with Ovsynch improves pregnancy

Using an EAZI-BREED™ CIDR® insert during the Ovsynch protocol increased fertility in lactating cows. That's the findings published in the article: Treatment of cycling and noncycling lactating dairy cows with progesterone during Ovsynch in the July 2006, Journal of Dairy Science.

A collaborate effort of six researchers and universities worked together to determine whether progesterone supplementation (CIDR) during the Ovsynch protocol would enhance fertility in lactating dairy cows. Lactating dairy cows at six locations were assigned randomly within lactation number and stage of lactation to receive the Ovsynch protocol or Ovsynch + CIDR.

Conception rates at 28 and 56 days after timed A.I. differed between the Ovsynch and Ovsynch + CIDR proto-

cols, however a treatment and location interaction were detected. Compared with Ovsynch, pregnancy outcomes were more positive for cows treated with the Ovsynch + CIDR protocol at four of the six locations, 28 days after timed A.I.; and three of six locations 56 days after timed A.I. A CIDR insert during Ovsynch increased fertility in cows with low serum progesterone before PGF injection.

For more information on this study visit <http://jds.fass.org/cgi/content/abstract/89/7/2567>. To determine if the Ovsynch + CIDR protocol could benefit your herd, visit with your area NorthStar reproductive specialist and your veterinarian. ★

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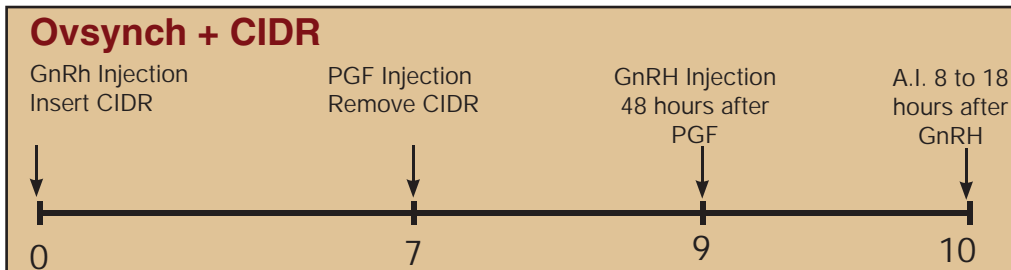
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and two months later that group can be run with breeding date information added as a data base item. The number of cows bred can be compared to the number of cows not bred, giving you the percent of eligible cows bred at that time.

You can also monitor pregnancy rate in PCDART by utilizing report 126. The Total Pregnancy Rate Summary can look at data in numerous ways including by date and by service sire. This report includes information on cows eligible to breed, those observed in heat, cows reported pregnant and pregnancy rate.

Without PCDART, pregnancy rate can be monitored by using the DHI-202 Herd Summary. Using DHI Template #1 with the 202 Herd Summary, pregnancy rate is identified as parameter #8. Expressed as a percentage, a rolling 12 months is displayed with the most current month's pregnancy rate at the bottom of the column.

Trying to achieve a goal of at least 20 percent pregnancy rate will provide you with the proper amount of replacement animals on an annual basis. For more assistance in using your DHI data to improve pregnancy rate and manage other reproduction data visit with your NorthStar DHI technician. ★



**Jump Start Transition Cows**

**FACT:** Nearly 30 percent of all culls occur during the first 60 days in milk.

**FACT:** Cows dosed with calcium propionate at freshening have less milk fever.

BioFresh Plus Soluble with Calcium and Niacin helps transition cows thrive during stressful times. Key ingredients include: digestive enzymes, microbial sugars, live cell yeast, L-form lactobacillus bacteria, specialized proteins, vitamins, minerals, a high level of niacin and the equivalent of one tube of calcium gel.

**NorthStar Cooperative**  
1.800.631.3510

Ask how to get a FREE Easy Doser and about the special pricing on BioFresh Plus Soluble.