

# DAIRY VETERINARY NEWSLETTER

July 2019

## Upcoming Bovine Reproduction Conference at Utah State University

Please consider attending this conference at Utah State University. It promises to be informative, useful and will provide continuing education credits. As shown below, registration is via Eventbrite:

**Bovine Reproduction Veterinary Continuing Education**  
**September 20 & 21, 2019**  
**Utah State University Caine Dairy and ATRC, Wellsville, UT**  
Registration: [https://usu\\_bovine\\_reproduction\\_ce.eventbrite.com](https://usu_bovine_reproduction_ce.eventbrite.com)

### Friday, September 20th

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm Tour of USU's Robotic Milking System  
(*Emphasis on reproduction capability*)

Dr. Allen Young  
USU Dairy Extension Specialist

4:30 - 5:00 Registration

5:00 - 5:10 Welcome

Dr. Dirk Vanderwall  
ADVS Department Head

5:10 - 5:30 Utah Trichomoniasis Pooled Sample Testing Effectiveness

Dr. Dave Wilson  
USU Dairy Extension Veterinarian

5:30 - 6:15 Poisonous Plants and Reproduction

Drs. Stegelmeier and Davis  
USDA Poisonous Plants Laboratory

6:15 - 6:45 Bull Breeding Soundness Exams (BBSEs)

Dr. Glen Jensen  
Emery Animal Health

6:45 - 7:00 Dinner (Café Rio) Served in ATRC lobby

7:00 - 8:30 Bovine Cycle and Synchronization

Dr. Rusty Stott  
USU Clinical Veterinarian

### Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

8:00 am Welcome - Laboratory Instructions

(*coveralls and boots recommended for hands-on labs*)

8:15 - 9:15 Sperm Morphology

Dr. Karl Hoopes (USU), Doug Coombs (Hoffman AI)  
(Agenda continues on next page)

9:15 - 10:15 Bull BSE

Drs. Lexi Sweat and Stott  
USU Clinical Veterinarians

10:15 - 10:30 Break

10:30 - 12:00 “Arm-Free” Bovine Palpation Demonstration and Laboratory

Carl Bollum  
IMV Imaging

### Are Bovine Twin Pregnancies Undesirable? Are There More Fetal Losses?

Historically twin pregnancies in horses have been considered hazardous. Many horse owners and veterinarians elect to abort one or both fetuses in equine twin pregnancies. In contrast, except for the risk of Freemartinism in heifers twin to bulls, bovine twins are not usually considered a risk. Are there indeed more fetal losses with bovine twins?

A recent paper by Z. Szeleny et al., Acta Veterinaria Hungarica, March 2019, examined fetal losses in bovine single pregnancies vs. those with twins. 1253 Holstein cows in Hungary were diagnosed pregnant from 29 - 42 d and confirmed by rectal palpation from 57 - 70 d after AI. Three study farms had 24%, 54%, and 22% of the pregnancies. Statistical analysis was described, but which test was applied to which comparison is not clear. Most comparisons were probably by *t*-test or ANOVA. One of the few stats named in the results was not described in methods. The entire paper is at:

<https://akademai.com/doi/pdf/10.1556/004.2019.013>

Farms were not significantly different ( $P > 0.05$ ) in having 8% twin pregnancies. 58% of single pregnancies were in the right horn and 42% in the left horn of the uterus. This may reflect right handedness of most AI breeders? Twin pregnancies were 54% unilateral and 46% bilateral (which sides the unilateral twins were on was not reported). 83% of 1148 singletons had one CL, 17% had 2 CL's, and 3 had 3 CL's. 94% of 105 twin pregnancies had 2 CL's, 3% had one CL, and 3% had 3 CL's. There is a description of prostaglandin or Ovsynch used on 38% of cows, not significantly associated with twinning or singletons ( $P = 0.18$ ).

Pregnancy loss between days 29 - 42 d and 57 - 70 d was 4.6% (53/1148) in singleton and 4.8% (5/105) in twin pregnancies, not different ( $P = 0.95$ ). Right horn pregnancy losses (5.2%) were not significantly different from left horn losses (3.8%) ( $P > 0.05$ ). In addition, another 6% of both single and twin pregnancies were lost between 70 d and dryoff ( $P = 0.99$ ).

However, there was a major risk factor to be kept in mind if Holstein cows were known to be carrying twins: Of cows that calved, stillbirth affected 5.2% (53/1025) of single pregnancies and 11.7% of twin pregnancies (11/94) ( $P < 0.01$ ). 7 twin pregnancies lost one calf at birth, 4 twin pregnancies lost both calves at birth. The authors describe two important management practices that I strongly agree with from experience: monitor carefully for dystocia when a cow is known to have twins; after any assisted delivery, always check for additional calves within the uterus after each calf is delivered until no more are found.

### USDA Changes Coming Regarding Official Animal ID Tags

After the May 2019 newsletter went out with information from USDA APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) regarding official identification for disease testing of cattle, sheep or goats, Dr. Barry Pittman, State Veterinarian of Utah, contacted me. He sent me information regarding some changes coming beginning in December 2019 for official ID of cattle and bison:

From the USDA Fact Sheet, “**Advancing Animal Disease Traceability: A Plan to Achieve Electronic Identification in Cattle and Bison**” (see next page):

## **December 31, 2019**

USDA will discontinue providing free metal [ear] tags. However, approved vendors will still be permitted to produce official metal tags for one additional year. Approved vendor tags will be available for purchase on a State-by-State basis as authorized by each State animal health official through December 31, 2020.

## **January 1, 2021**

USDA will no longer approve vendor production of metal ear tags with the official USDA shield. Accredited veterinarians and/or producers can no longer apply metal ear tags for official identification and must start using only Official RFID tags.

## **January 1, 2023**

RFID ear tags will be required for beef and dairy cattle and bison moving interstate that meet the above requirements. Animals previously tagged with metal ear tags will have to be retagged with RFID ear tags in order to move interstate. Feeder cattle and animals moving directly to slaughter are not subject to RFID requirements.

Animals that will require official, individual RFID tags include:

### **Beef Cattle & Bison**

- sexually intact and 18 months or older
- used for rodeo or recreational events (regardless of age)
- used for shows or exhibitions

### **Dairy Cattle**

- all female dairy cattle
- all male dairy cattle born after March 11, 2013

## **RFID Ear Tag Specifications**

Beginning January 1, 2023, all cattle and bison that are required to have official identification under current regulations must have official RFID ear tags. The tags should be applied at the time of birth or before the animal moves off the farm in interstate commerce.

Tag technology can be low or ultrahigh frequency - whichever the State, producer or industry sector prefers.

Tags must be approved by USDA and meet standards for quality and performance, be tamper proof, contain a unique ID, and display the U.S. official ear tag shield. Tags can be part of a matched set with visual identification. RFID tags will be available to replace the orange, metal brucellosis tags.

## **Getting Official RFID Ear Tags**

A premises identification number (PIN) is required to purchase official ID tags. USDA has a new interactive map that helps direct producers to state-specific resources for obtaining a PIN:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/traceability/state-pin/>

USDA will maintain a list of approved manufacturers. Accredited veterinarians or producers may purchase official, approved tags directly from tag manufacturers or retailers.

## **Other Official Identification**

Brands and tattoos may still be accepted as official identification if both the shipping and receiving State or Tribal animal health authorities agree to accept the markings in place of RFID.

## **For More Information**

If you have additional questions, please email: [traceability@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:traceability@aphis.usda.gov)

5600 Old Main Hill  
Logan UT 84322-5600

Please let us know your comments and suggestions for future topics. I can be reached at (435) 760-3731 (Cell), or [David.Wilson@usu.edu](mailto:David.Wilson@usu.edu).

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David J. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

David Wilson, DVM, Extension Veterinarian

"Utah State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution."