

Topic of the Month

An article titled *Presynch/Ovsynch: Simple fixes, major improvements*, by J. Richard Pursley, appeared in the April edition of *Progressive Dairyman*, and has been generating some discussion and confusion among producers. Dr. Pursley is the researcher whose work pioneered the Ovsynch protocol.

To understand the article, it is important to understand the way Presynch and Ovsynch work. Research has shown that it is typically about the third estrous cycle after calving when fertility in dairy cattle is best. One purpose of the 2 Presynch injections of prostaglandin (Lutalyse, Estrumate, or Estroplan) is to induce estrus and improve her fertility. Traditionally, we have recommended giving these injections at 14 day intervals and starting Ovsynch 14 days later. This works well because it allows timing based on convenience.

The purpose of the initial GnRH injection of Ovsynch is to ovulate a mature follicle present on the ovaries to trigger a new wave of follicular development so that when the prostaglandin injection is given 7 days later, there is a young mature follicle ready to ovulate. Older follicles have documented lower fertility and may not respond to GnRH at all. Dr. Pursley is suggesting that if the Ovsynch protocol is started at 11 days after Presynch rather than 14 days, the initial GnRH will be more effective at triggering ovulation of a follicle. By resetting the estrous cycle in this way, the new wave of follicles develops under the influence of increased progesterone, which appears to increase fertility, making the protocol overall more effective. While his research supports this, it is also important to remember that the protocol must be completed correctly for it to work at all. While some dairies might like the changed protocol, the traditional Presynch/Ovsynch timing will be better for others. Your herd veterinarian can answer any specific questions you might have about this protocol.

Upcoming Events

Friday, July 13: Somerset County Black and White Show, Somerset County Fairgrounds

In The News

**Corn, soybean markets soar post-
USDA reports** (Dairyherd.com | Updated: June 29, 2012)

Corn futures are trading 7 to 21 cents higher midmorning. Corn futures are higher although met with slight pressure upon the release of today stocks and acreage report. Stocks were reported lower providing renewed strength to the July contract while acreage was reported higher than trade expectations adding pressure to new crop contracts. However, it seems traders have looked beyond today's reports and focused on weather conditions across the Midwest. Forecasts remain unchanged with calls for hot, dry conditions over the next 7 to 10 days.

Soybean futures are trading 23 to 32 cents higher midmorning. Soybean prices continue to climb despite bearish news from today's stocks and acreage reports. Both planted acreage and stocks were reported higher than average estimates. The trade is no longer focused on the reports but is instead focused on weather forecasts. Drought-like conditions across the Midwest continue to move prices higher.

Commodity Futures

Source: CME

Corn (as of June 29) bu	\$6.34
Soybeans(as of June 29) bu	\$14.27
Soybean meal ton (Aug) (as of June 29)	\$436
Cheese (July) (as of June 29)	\$1.702
Class III milk (July) (as of June 29)	\$16.87

Practice News

Check out our recently redesigned website (www.whiteoakvetclinic.com). It is still under construction, so if you have any suggestions for content, please feel free to share them with us.