

A Producer Perspective on Using Reproductive Technologies

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 Vale, SD

Blair Brothers Angus Ranch



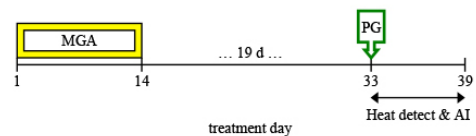
Blair Brothers Angus Ranch

- 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



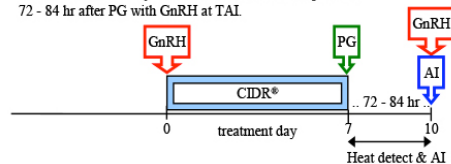
www.selectsires.com

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 GnRH at TAI



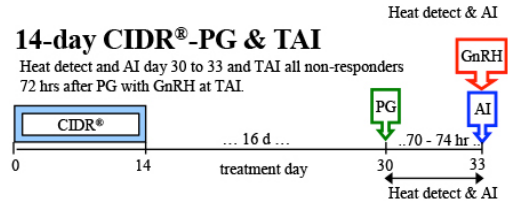
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Heifers



Heifers



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Cows

HEAT DETECTION

Select Synchron

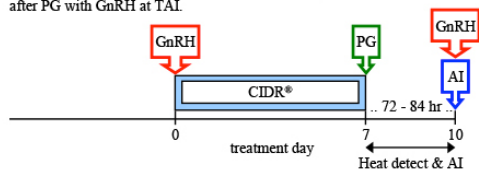


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Cows

Select Synchron + CIDR® & TAI

Heat detect and AI day 7 to 10 and TAI all non-responders 72 - 84 hr
 after PG with GnRH at TAI



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Cows

- Wet 2 year old vs. Aged cow
 - Wet 2 → **36 hrs** pull 40-50%
 - Aged cow → **48 hrs** pull 40-50%

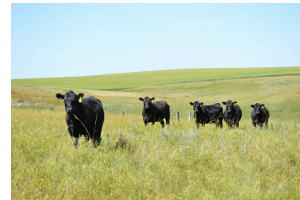


Cows

- 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



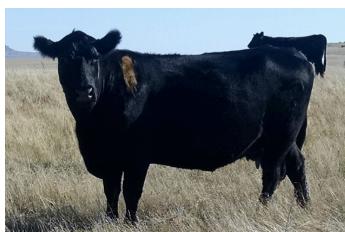
Ultrasound

- Ibex Pro
 - Battery operated
 - Set up portable corrals and preg check where and when we need to



Ultrasound

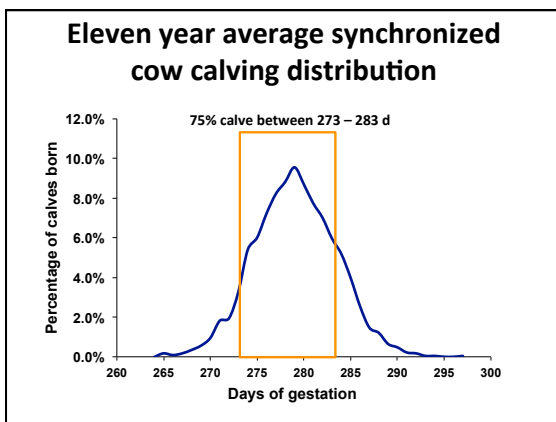
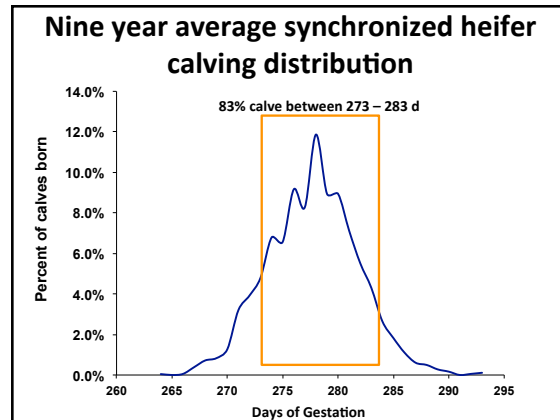
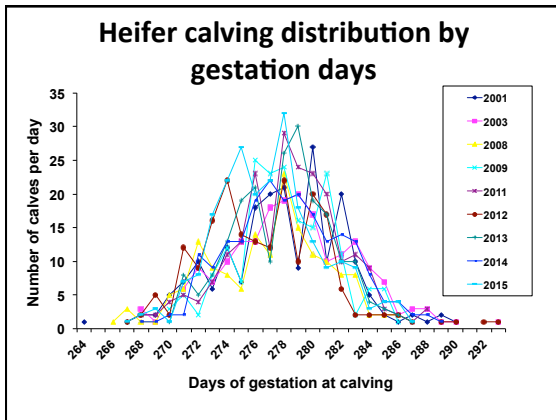
- Adding value
 - Identify late calvers to sell as breds vs. weigh-ups
 - Typically sell all bull breds



Calving

- So does all this result in all cows calving in 2 days?





Calving

- Example
 - If you synchronize 100 cows and 75 stick AI
 - Expect to have 7-8 calves in the peak 24 hour period

The photograph shows a black cow in a metal stall, lying down on a thick bed of straw. The stall is part of a larger facility with wooden walls and a metal roof.

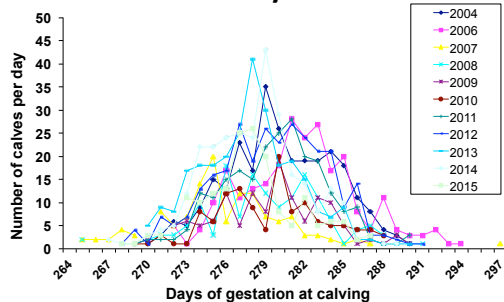


Calving

- 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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