
Computerized Synchronization Calendar

A computer program helps with AI synchronization strategies.

by *Wendy Miller*

Program specialists at the Iowa Beef Center (IBC) and Iowa State University (ISU) Extension recently developed and released a computer solution to scheduling synchronized artificial insemination (AI) programs.

“Our new synchronization planner gives producers a technology-based tool that helps them make key management decisions in a fairly simple manner,” says Daryl Strohbahn, ISU Extension and IBC beef specialist. “By taking a few simple steps in their operations, producers can quickly simplify their

planning processes and eliminate costly errors.”

The calendar is a computer program available in two different forms. The first is an Internet-based software program; the second is a Microsoft® Excel® spreadsheet. Producers can access either version at the IBC Web site (www.iowabeefcenter.org).

Simplicity is the key to the software. To use the calendar, producers enter the date they want to start breeding and select the synchronization system they wish to use. The program offers a cost-analysis option, using the number of females, estimated

product costs (MGA®, prostaglandin, GnRH), semen costs, feed costs per pound (lb.), amount fed, yardage, and AI technician and trip charges.

“The synchronization calendar has the potential to eliminate errors in timing injections, feeding MGA and other duties, plus it quickly points out what days of the week one will need to have the most labor available to carry out the synchronization program,” Strohbahn says. “We designed it to be user-friendly so producers can easily implement it in their daily management activities.”


“We created this software with the producer in mind,” says Mark Dikeman, program specialist for Extension and the IBC. “We wanted to make it possible for them to compare different options while at the same time simplifying the planning process.”

Once the information is correctly entered, producers can expect to receive several benefits.

A calendar of activities. The breeding synchronization calendar generates a report stating what activities need to be done on which dates and a day of the week for each

activity. It gives a detailed description of each activity and assumptions for the synchronization program selected.

An estimate of costs for the selected synchronization program. The report lists synchronization costs, AI costs, feed and yardage costs, and a cost analysis with varying estrus response rates and pregnancy rates.

For more information, contact the IBC at (515) 294-BEEF. 

Editor's note: *The Iowa Beef Center and Iowa State University Extension supplied this article.*