

“Many abortion causes can be mitigated through management,” emphasized Dohlman.

Tyler Dohlman and Russ Daly spoke during Thursday’s ARSBC morning session focusing on health and well-being. Visit the Newsroom at www.appliedreprostrategies.com, which features comprehensive coverage of the symposium, to view his PowerPoint, read the proceedings or listen to the presentation. Compiled by the Angus Media editorial team, the site is made possible through sponsorship by the Beef Reproduction Task Force.



Editor’s Note: Troy Smith is a cattleman and freelance writer from Sargent, Neb.

breeding, on heifers that were previously well-vaccinated.

Daly also shared results from studies applying different prebreeding vaccination intervals that indicate that in well-vaccinated females, MLV vaccines may be used nearer to breeding time than directed by product labels, without significant negative effect. Thus, vaccinations could be given at the time that an estrus-synchronization protocol is initiated, without fear of negative impact to reproduction.

However, Daly advised producers that an increasing amount of emerging evidence suggests that MLV vaccines, even when given at labeled prebreeding intervals, may negatively affect reproductive parameters compared to cattle vaccinated with killed-virus vaccines. The documented differences in reproductive performance between MLV-vaccinated cattle and those vaccinated with killed vaccine are not very large — some are statistically insignificant — but differences exist.

“It appears there may be something subtle going on,” said Daly, who advised producers to consult their veterinarian to develop vaccination programs incorporating the best type of vaccine for their individual operations.



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2017 ARSBC workshop set for Aug. 29-30

Make plans now to attend the 2017 Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle (ARSBC) symposium Aug. 29-30. Hosted by the Kansas State University (K-State) Animal Sciences and Industry Department and K-State Research and Extension, the event will be headquartered at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center in Manhattan, Kan.

Considered the premier national event in beef cattle reproductive management, the meeting has a long history of providing the latest information on the application of reproductive technologies and includes a range of topics related to cow herd reproduction such as nutritional interactions, management and male fertility.

The meeting is open to anyone with an interest in beef cattle reproduction, including producers, technicians, veterinarians and professionals in related industries.

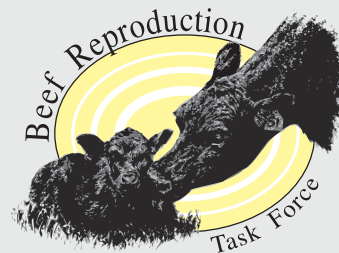
Program details have not been released for this year’s program, but visit www.appliedreprostrategies.com and watch for future announcements. Extensive online coverage of past meetings can be found in the Newsroom Archive at www.appliedreprostrategies.com. The meeting is organized by the Beef Reproduction Task Force, a multi-state Extension group made up of specialists from K-State, the University of Missouri, Iowa State University, the University of Nebraska, South Dakota State University, the University of Florida, the University of California–Davis, the University of Idaho and Oregon State University.

The Beef Reproduction Task Force hosted the first ARSBC Symposium in 2002 at Manhattan, Kan. Since that time, symposia have been conducted at 16 locations across the United States.

“We are looking forward to bringing this meeting back to Kansas,” says Sandy Johnson, K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry associate professor and extension beef specialist.

Hotel information is available at www.appliedreprostrategies.com.

For questions about the event, contact Johnson at sandyj@ksu.edu or 785-462-6281.



Temperament and Reproduction

Dam’s temperament affects reproductive performance.

by Kasey Brown, special projects editor

“We don’t need to raise puppy dogs, but we do need to select for temperament in the cow herd,” said Reinaldo Cooke. Temperament is a heritable trait at 0.50, so it affects the calf. The associate professor and beef cattle specialist at Oregon State University spoke to attendees of the 2016 Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle (ARSBC) symposium in Des Moines, Iowa, last fall.



Reinaldo Cooke

PHOTO BY TROY SMITH

He shared several ways, both objective and subjective, to score temperament,

including chute scores and exit velocity. He averages those scores to create a temperament score, ranging from docile to aggressive, designated by 1-5, respectively. Adequate temperament includes those cows that earn a temperament score of 3 or less, and excitable temperament includes the scores of 4 and 5. Cooke suggested selecting for temperament by sire selection and culling aggressive females, but granted that some “personality” should remain without impairing safety and productive

CONTINUED ON PAGE 184

Temperment and Reproduction CONTINUED FROM PAGE 183

traits. In cow-calf systems like his in Oregon, one pair goes on about 40 acres and that cow must have enough spark to protect her calf against predators and overcome challenges. Since temperament is heritable, he added that a cow's calf needs some personality to compete for bunk space at the feedlot. He prefers females with a temperament score of 2-2.5.

Temperament affects reproduction in several ways. He shared data that heifers with higher temperament scores reach puberty later. Higher temperament scores correlate to higher cortisol levels. He shared that cortisol affects luteinizing hormone, so these heifers have a harder time ovulating.

In addition to puberty rates, pregnancy rates improve with lower temperament scores, and so do weaning weights. Cooke reported that cows with adequate temperament scores weaned a calf, on average, 30 pounds (lb.) heavier than cows with excitable temperaments.

While temperament is heritable, acclimation also plays a large role. In a study in which heifers were acclimated to human interaction three times a week for one month, the acclimated heifers reached puberty sooner than the control group of heifers. These acclimated heifers had decreased cortisol concentrations and hastened reproductive development,

regardless of breed type. He granted there were no positive effects on cows due to acclimation. Acclimation works best with younger cattle.



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