

Practice Methods and Techniques

Dr. Leland C. Allenstein, presiding

Dr. Allenstein: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners. Welcome to one of the most well-attended sessions of the annual conference of the AABP. Well the name this year is not practice tips but practice methods and techniques. It still has a flavor of what you are doing in the country, in practice, and in the field as practitioners. This marks the first general session of our meeting here in Baltimore. During the next three days we hope that you will find or hear or acquire some knowledge to make you a better practitioner, a better citizen, a better member of your family and also a better servant in this nation. There is a story about Homer, 86 years old, and Emma, 84 years old, who had been living together many years and one day Emma got sick. Emma had to go to the doctor. The doctor examined Emma. "Emma, you're pregnant." "No," she says. "Where's the phone." She goes to the phone and dials home. "Homer, this is Emma. Guess what. I'm pregnant." Long silence. "Who'd you say this was?" So like this session, one can see many products, many productive things can come still from age. Our first presentation tonight comes from Dr. George Washington, Purcellville, Virginia, on the use of Prostin F² Alpha in the dairy cow. Dr. Washington ...

The Use of Prostin F² Alpha

George E. Washington, D.V.M.

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. There is one advantage to being first on the program. What I have to say tonight has not already been said. I have been using Prostin F² Alpha in the dairy cow since it first came on the market in February of 1976. For the last year and a half Prostin F² Alpha has been my treatment of choice for pyometra in the dairy cow. I use five vials, 25 mg IM. I would say that I have been getting at least 85-90% success rate with this one treatment, no other treatment. I have a few that I have retreated after this that didn't quite come down to normal that I might have had to infuse or one or two of these I have retreated with prostaglandin with one vial in 10cc of saline in the uterus. I have tried one vial in a regular full blown pyometra in the uterus and it didn't work. I tried it IV and it didn't work. I've also been using it on a few heifers for mismating, both dairy and beef heifers. Most of these heifers would probably weigh between 600-800 pounds. My procedure is to wait and see if the heifer goes past her heat. If she misses heat, I check her for pregnancy at 30-40 days. If pregnant, I am talking about now the heifers that are in the 600-800 pound weight, I give three vials, 15 mg, IM. I have had outstanding success with this. Then I recommend to the farmer if the animal is old enough to breed, to rebreed her at 24 days or approximately 24 days when she would be back in her second heat. I have checked several of these animals pregnant on the first breeding from artificial breeding. Also we have a little bit of dairy goat practice and where they have dairy goats they have a lot of billy goats and they are kind of hard to keep penned! So it also works very well for mismating in the nanny. I use one vial, 5 mg IM, at 7-10 days. I've also at times, where they have had two animals on the same place very close to the same times, used as little as half a vial, 2-1/2 mg, and it has done very well. It's also reported that it works for mummified fetuses. Most of the mummified fetuses that I see in the dairy cow are not worth using it on, but I have had two in which I have used 25 mg and both aborted in about three days but the fetus had to be removed manually from the vagina as you normally do when the cow normally aborts a mummified fetus. I use it a little on sows in heat, one vial in 10cc saline in the uterus. I mark them with yellow pencil on the back, and have the farmer observe for heat and then breed them. I haven't most of these animals, none of my animals I have had them breed with no observed heat. One observation I have made, is that when I used it in the afternoon, the farmer has observed more in heat than he has when I've used it in the morning. Just recently I've started using it for cystic

ovaries with luteal activity. To me it looks promising but I have not used it enough to really tell at this time. And in this method I am doing the same thing, one vial, 5 mg in 10cc of saline. This is a very promising drug. I have been in bovine practice for 11 years and I think it is one of the finest drugs I've seen on the market for reproductive work. I hope that some of these methods will be obsolete in a few months when we have it so we can use it for quite a few things.

Use of the Laryngoscope

Larry Hollis, D.V.M.

Vega, Texas

(presented by Dr. David Bechtol)

I've asked to present this for Dr. Hollis. His practice method technique is on the use of the lighted laryngoscope in diagnosis of the bovine respiratory disease. For those who are not familiar with the laryngoscope this particular product in our area is obtained from Pioneer Veterinary Supply in Houston. But this has a light that you can pass into the oral cavity down into the trachea and we use sovereign equine vaginal swabs and some others. I like the sovereign swabs much better than I do the other ones. Then we use the culturette tube to put the swab in after we collect the sample to keep it moist and get it ready to send to the diagnostic laboratory. We use this particular technique for observing lesions in calf diphtheria, laryngitis, etc. We also use it for examining the esophagus. It is a one-man technique. You can put the culturette tube in your mouth and pass the laryngoscope. If you have glasses, you need to be sure and use the silicon base lens cleaner to prevent fogging. Then if you are looking down the tube and all of a sudden it gets dark you better get out of the way because the animal is regurgitating and you can sure have some problems! It is better than a nasal swab culture because you can get right into where the meat of the problem is and you have less contamination. You extend the swab down into the larynx or trachea and then you withdraw the swab and put into the culturette tube and you have a good sample that you can take to the diagnostic laboratory. This works well for us and we thought you might be interested in it.

SPECIAL NOTE: a) If you wear glasses, use silicone-based lens cleaner to prevent fogging; b) If tube suddenly goes dark-watch out, animal is regurgitating.

SOURCES: Laryngoscope available from Pioneer Vet Supply, Houston, Texas. Swabs, HL 2064-00 available from any Haver-Lockhart distributor. Sterile culture swabs by Sovereign available from any veterinary supplier. Culturette by Marion Scientific and available from Scientific Products, Jen-Sal.

Monitoring A.I. Performance in Large Dairy Herds

Steve Smalley, D.V.M.

Chandler, Arizona

My talk is on the systems that we're using to monitor heat detection in our AI herds. It is entitled "record systems to monitor performance in AI herds." The first thing we use is a 24-day trial. This consists of a list of all cows that are fresh long enough to breed as of the first day of the trial that have not been bred. 90% of these cows should be caught in heat before 24 days. This is a goal that we set. We set up this trial once a month and another little quirk that we put in is 30% of these cows should be caught in heat every 8 days of this trial so the herdsman or the owner can monitor his herdsman to see how well he is doing on heat detection. If he is hitting 30% on his first 8 days he is doing a pretty good job. I am finding that usually for the first 8 days they are pretty close to 40 or 50% and it is the last 8 days that is a problem. I set up a 24-day trial on one of my dairies in the summertime. On the first 8 days, he hit 14 which