

number, approximately 50 cows, was 63%. A few of these cows did not conceive from the first injections but did show strong heat in three weeks' time and become pregnant and it could be that in some we had missed a low grade infection. Prostaglandins can also be used to synchronize heats in dairy heifers that are not checked so closely by the farmer. I've only used this approach in one herd. We treated 16 heifers, they were checked first to make sure that they had a functional corpus luteum. They were injected and bred at 72 and 96 hours and out of these 14 got with calf. Prostaglandins are also useful to induce labor in cows that are overdue, cows that are leaking milk which oftentimes predisposes to mastitis, and heifers nearing calving and a bit on the small size. These animals usually calve within 24 hours and practically all in 36 hours. In cows that are prone to milk fever, prostaglandins can regulate the calving date so better utilization of vitamin D can be obtained so you can treat these cows with injectable vitamin D, 36 hours later inject them with prostaglandins, then you will hit pretty well the optimum range. There seems to be less retained afterbirth in these cows than those induced by steroids. Prostaglandins have a stimulating effect on the smooth muscle of the uterus and this probably accounts for the fact that these cows calve in this 36-hour period. Prostaglandins should not be a substitute for good nutrition or good management but aid them. It is important to get a good breeding history and perform a physical examination of the genital tract before administering these drugs. It is very easy to be told the cow had been bred 3 months previously and quickly palpate only for the stage of pregnancy and miss a 40-day breeding. If this cow is injected you have a disaster. Since a functional CL has to be present on the ovary in order to benefit from prostaglandins in inducing heat by this method, it is very obvious that identification of this structure by the veterinarian is imperative. For anyone who has limited experience in ovarian palpation a trip to the local slaughterhouse to examine a number of CL's would be very useful. The corpus luteum is not present in the ovary 4 days before ovulation and four days later. In dairy herds where milk quotas have to be maintained on an even basis, and the attainment of 12-month calving intervals is very popular, prostaglandins should be an aid to these goals. We've used both Lutelase (Upjohn) and Estromate (ICI).

Question: What dosage do you use?

Answer: With the Estromate, they are all intramuscular, we use 2 cc. Estromate is cleared in Canada and now can be used. Lutelase we were using with permission and we used 3 cc to induce heifers in heat and 5 cc in cows. And for pyometra we would use Estromate 2 cc, and Lutelase, 5 cc. That would be 25 mg of Lutelase. The Estromate is synthetic and a bit more stable.

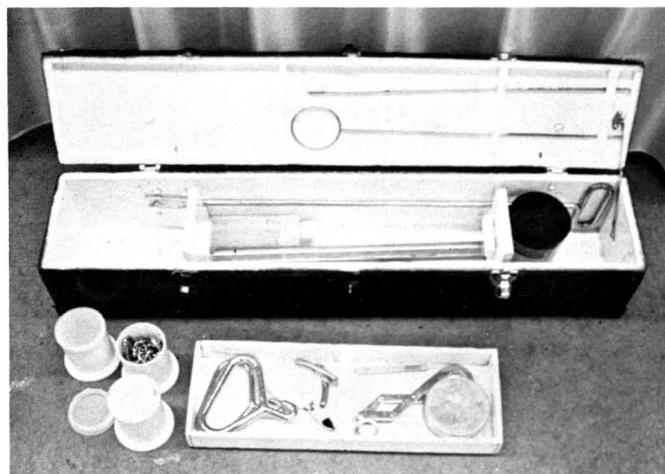
Moderator: They are still lucky in Canada they can still get it and we can't get it down here at the price range that he's getting and so we can't use it. Well, we can use it but it will cost a lot more than it does up in Canada.

## Calving Equipment Holder

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Ladies and gentlemen, as Mark Anthony said as he walked into Cleopatra's tent, "I didn't come here to talk." I came to show you a practical calving box that was developed through a farm and ranch practice where fetotomy is the common procedure. Are you one of those veterinarians that when you are on a calving call, you head for the barn with your calf puller and an optimistic smile and then when difficulties arise, you run back and forth to your vehicle for each different piece of equipment? If you are, why not pull your act together and take everything you are likely to need on that first trip? Let me show you all that's in this box. Soap, one 60-inch OB chain, two 30-inch OB chains, one pair of eye hooks welded to a 30-inch chain. D-handles, torsion rod. For fetotomy we have a skinning chisel, spool of fetotomy wire, cutters, wire cutters for cutting the wire, handles for the wire, a leader for getting that wire or even an OB chain in those hard-to-get places, needle for threading the wire, fetotome—actually it comes in two parts, I left the other heavier business end in the interest of traveling light on the plane—but it does fit in here quite handily; craze hook. We also keep a small jar of vaseline for the shredded ends of the fetotome after we have cleaned it. In this tray we also keep a scalpel handle and a packet of disposal blades. This kit has seen heavy use for the last 14 years. It took the punishment of Western Airlines to break off one of the catches. It is light and easy to make and professional looking. Do yourself a favor, make yourself a calving box. Don't leave home without it.

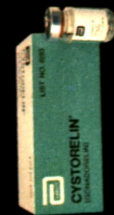




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