genital tract for collection of objective data including cervical diameter, location, size and symmetry of the uterus. Cows were classified on the basis of vaginoscopy, with presence of muco-purulent or purulent discharge. Signifying a clinical case. The character of the discharge was also scored. Clinical cases were re-examined 14 days later to assess clinical outcome (presence or absence of discharge). Subsequent reproductive performance and culling were monitored for all cows.

Results and Conclusions

Purulent discharge was present in 488 animals (32%). Of these, 52 visible on external inspection, and 437 were identified by vaginoscopy. Herd prevalence of endometritis ranged from 14% to 42%. Cows with a history of retained placenta (RP) were 3.5 times more likely to be diagnosed with endometritis, but RP alone had no association with probability of pregnancy.

Cows examined between 20-26 DIM were 2.2 times more likely to be diagnosed with endometritis than cows examined between 27-33 DIM, but the impact of endometritis was more pronounced in the latter group.

Among palpation findings, only location of the uterus (not completely in the pelvis) was significantly associated with reduced pregnancy by 120 DIM.

Endometritis may impair reproductive performance in some animals, but identification of these individuals depends on objective assessment and consideration of the interval from calving to diagnosis.

Reproductive Benefits Associated with the use of ECP in Postpartum Dairy Cattle

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Introduction

Use of estradiol cypionate (ECP) in postpartum dairy cattle currently receives much attention. The majority of ECP use is occurring in fresh cows either as an attempt to prevent uterine infection or as a part of a regime to treat cows with metritis or endometritis. Clinical data supporting the use of ECP in fresh cows has not been published. The object of this trial was to assess the reproductive benefits of using ECP in early postpartum dairy cows.

Methods and Materials

A clinical trial using 4 mg of ECP injected intramuscularly in the necks of cows 24 hours postpartum was designed and completed. The trial began in October 1998 on an 800-cow, free stall and dry lot California dairy. Data was collected through February 1999. Cows were selected at the time of calving and placed into treated or nontreated groups according to even or odd ear tag numbers, respectively. Treated cows received an injection of 2cc (4mg) of ECP, 24 hours after calving. Non treated cows were not given any injections. Health status including retained placenta, ease of calving and number of calves born was recorded for all cows at calving. A total 250 cows were in the trial. Parameters measured were involution at first vet check, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd service conception rates, services to conception and days open.