

The One Minute Examination — Beef Herd Records on the Run...

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Most beef practitioners have found beef herd record-keeping to be a chore, too technically demanding for the results achieved. Practice Tip: during a one-minute pregnancy examination, enough information can be collected to provide a rewarding summary of the herd. It may also be a toe-in for other herd health or production management visits.

Prior to beginning examination of animals in the herd, establish the examination date, the dates the bulls entered and left the breeding herd, and from these, calculate the breeding season length, the minimum and maximum duration of gestation in cows to be examined. Use a julian calendar conversion table to quickly calculate this information.

What information can be gathered in the one-minute pregnancy examination? The animal signalment is established, ie. ID, breed, age, (sex). As the cow is approached, assess body condition score, lactation status and general health. Determine pregnancy (or) non-pregnancy state and the stage of gestation (days pregnant). After an initial herd visit, a preprinted herd worksheet with animal signalment in a sorted order can

Exhibit 1.

be prepared. Data is quickly gathered and recorded as numeric codes, ie. BCS= 1 to 9, Lactation= 0, no or 1, yes, Pregnant= 0, no or 1, yes, Days Pregnant= days (10 day intervals), and comments (as needed). So, once a cow signalment is recorded or identified, the practitioner may report: 5, 1, 1, 150, which would be interpreted as BCS=5, Lactating, Pregnant 150 days, comments or observations are noted.

The data is easily entered into a computer spreadsheet program by clerical or technical help. This information can then be summarized, tabulated and graphed (exhibit 1).

The pregnancy analysis report provides the practitioner and producer with a simple but substantive source of herd evaluation. It provides a basis for documenting and discussing successes and short-comings in the herd's performance. This potentially leads you to a whole array of other herd health and production management activities. You will find that producers are impressed with all that you can discover during a.... One-minute Examination.

PREGNANCY ANALYSIS REPORT: RANCH IFAS - Beef Research Unit
 HERD: Mature Cows
 DATE: Aug-93

SUMMARY:

	NUMBER	PG RATE	A+DTC	A+AGE	A+BCS	LACT%	BREEDING SEASON
ALL	213	93.9	28.1	3.3	5.1	75.8	START: 03/26 END: 06/01 LENGTH: 67
PREGNANT	200		3.3	5.1	75.9		
NON-PREG	13		3.5	4.5	75.0		
LACTATING	160	94.4	29.9	3.8	4.3		03/02 06/01
NON-LACT	51	94.1	21.0	2.0	5.8		91

PG RATE = Pregnancy rate, # pregnant/# exposed to the bull.
 A+DTC = Average Days to Conception, time to conception in the breeding season.
 A+AGE = Average Age.
 A+BCS = Average Body Condition Score, condition score at pregnancy exam.
 LACT% = Lactation rate, percent of cows lactating.

PREGNANCY DISTRIBUTION: (Pregnancy rate over time)

TIME	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	>70	OPEN	PREG.
EXPTIME	213	170	156	111	90	62	41	20	13	
PRG/TIME	43	14	45	21	28	21	21	7		
CUM PRG	43	37	102	123	131	152	173	209		200

TIME = Time in 10 day intervals through the breeding season.
 EXPTIME = The number of non-pregnant cows exposed to the bull during that time period.
 PRG/TIME = The number of cows becoming pregnant during the time period.
 CUM PRG = The cumulative number of pregnancies through that period in time.

BODY CONDITION:

BCS	TOT#	PG#	PR
<4	6	4	66.7
4	47	42	89.4
5	89	85	95.5
6	64	64	100.0
>6	3	3	100.0
TOTAL	213	200	93.9

BCS = Body condition score.
 TOT# = Total number of cows in each category.
 PG# = Number of pregnant cows in the category.
 PR = Pregnancy rate for the category.

AGE:

AGE	TOT#	PG#	PR
1	0	0	
2	62	59	95.2
3	93	84	90.3
4	30	30	100.0
5	13	13	100.0
6	8	8	100.0
7	3	3	100.0
8	0	0	
9	0	0	
10	1	1	100.0
11	0	0	
12	0	0	
>12	3	2	66.7
	213	200	93.9

