

union. Insertion of this device in the distal portion of an everted uterus with the back end against one's chest facilitates reduction of an edematous uterus without putting a hand through it. This greatly eases the chore of completely inverting the uterus once it is back inside the abdomen.

I have found that with an increasing number of requests to talk to 4-H and farmers' groups, visual aids are a great help in making points and illustrating pathology. By carrying a camera and a few lenses in the practice vehicle at all times, pictures of cases are taken that would otherwise be left unphotographed. I carry my camera, lenses, and a rechargeable flash unit in a small, sturdy, and dust-proof case. It keeps the equipment safe and ready for use at any time. In arranging the slides, I first view them on an old X-ray viewer and then store them in a 20-slide plastic sheet available from 20th Century Plastics, Inc., 3628 Crenshaw Blvd., L.A., California 90016. These sheets can then be put in any notebook where all slides are ready for quick previewing and assembly for a showing. The slides are thus kept dust-free, dry, and out of harmful light rays.

Record Keeping to Improve Bovine Reproduction

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Many of us spend a great deal of time doing pregnancy and sterility checking of cows. It can be a very satisfying and rewarding part of bovine practice, but let's face it, it's just not the most appealing part of practice. To get the most out of the procedure, a good system of recording the information you obtain should be developed.

The system should be easily used yet provide records so that both you and the owner or herdsman can tell at a glance when to dry a cow up or if the cow is a problem and should be rechecked. We have all probably developed the ideal system, but it can't be used in all dairies. If the owner or herdsman will not spend the time to use your system, then you must vary it or utilize something different to get the needed information recorded.

I would like to talk about the various systems that are utilized in our practice. The first system is merely a masonite or hardboard sign over each cow to record facts about her. Some of these are home creations and some are adaptations of signs that bull-studs have available for individual identification. This method is most often utilized in our practice where natural service is used and accurate breeding dates are not always available. This system can give you a limited amount of information, but not general health records or previous lactation history to see if she has been a problem breeder before.

The dairyherd monitoring wheel is not utilized by a lot of our herds but some people do like it and will

spend the necessary time to use it. It does require some time to keep it accurate and most often must be used with some other written record such as a notebook to record the information needed for problem cows or from lactation to lactation.

A manila folder type record, developed by Michigan, is a very good system to record in detail almost all of the lifetime history of an individual cow. There are areas for breeding, calving, production, mastitis treatment, reproductive problems and other disease problems to be recorded. Also, with the use of color tabs on the top edge, you can mark months for calving, drying off, or when to watch for heat. The information may be somewhat harder to retrieve quickly, but it is there for the dairyman who will spend the time to put it there.

This last system is the one we use most often since it is easy to use and has room to record all the necessary information on each individual cow. This card can record four lactations so prior breeding history about the breeding cycles of the animal can be examined. By using the color tabs, various categories of cows can be marked, such as pregnant animals, cows ready to be bred, and cows to be checked postpartum. This system, except for the cards, is purchased from Acme Visible Index in either 38- or 60-pocket sizes.

As nice as these last systems look, I can show you some that are covered with dust and cobwebs because they are never touched. I'm sure that many of you have other systems that fit the needs of you and your clients. No matter what the system, the most important thing is that it be used.

(Several 2x2 slides were used to illustrate this presentation.)

Some Instruments for a Dairy Practice

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I wish to present to you three instruments that have been useful in our practice, which consists of family dairy farms of 50 to 100 cows.

The first is a vacuum gauge to which three rubber hoses may be attached. A rubber hose with a 16 gauge needle can be inserted into the inflation to observe the vacuum stability at the teat end. Next a rubber hose without the needle may be placed on the milking cluster in place of the short pulsator hose to observe the pulsator action. A slightly larger diameter hose, the narrow end of an inflaton, may be attached to the vacuum gauge and this used on a stall cock to check for vacuum line restrictions and check the accuracy of the milking machine vacuum gauge. We use this instrument as a survey tool while on the farm for a sick call. If our findings indicate a possible machine-related mastitis problem, we return later with more sophisticated equipment.

Some of our dairymen raise registered bulls to sell and often we are called to place a ring in their noses.