

amount of PGF α were also used.

Conclusion

Treatment of cows with a palpable CL followed by a single insemination at 80 hours, combined with insemination of estrus cows at the time of palpation resulted in seven of thirty-six (19.4%) cows pregnant by artificial insemination. **Results fell below expectations.** However, this method may be economically feasible in small herds where the management and labor necessary to achieve calves by artificial insemination **without the use of synchronizing agents** may be either **unavailable** or the **more costly alternative**.

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Information System for Vesicular Diseases

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An information system for animal diseases epidemiological surveillance should be the basic supporting structure of animal health services which administer animal disease control programs. The main components of such a system should be as follows: (i) a monitoring mechanism of epidemiological events for data collecting; (ii) a set simple and speedy communication procedures guided toward users; (iii) a data processing scheme which is adjusted to the local environment conditions; (iv) an active surveillance mechanism directed toward critical diseases.

The information system for vesicular diseases, developed some years ago by the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, has been established in ten South American countries. In some of them it has been extended to cover other cattle diseases. Its main objectives are: (a) to identify and characterize animal diseases ecosystems; (b) to improve the effectiveness of disease control programs by assisting the decision making process associated with sanitary activities. This type of information system "uses" the animal health service organization itself its main functions being developed by the staff members. The tasks of such an information system "include" a wide range of the veterinary activities among which are the following:

1. Environmental analysis for animal diseases.
2. Development of epidemiological indicators.
3. Establishment of communication channels in the

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- veterinary service (source-path-user).
4. Characterization of specific activities such as the observation of epidemiological events, data gathering, transmission, processing and interpretation as well as the diffusion of epidemiological information.
5. Monitoring of animal diseases in order to:
 - (a) define risk levels for cattle population exposure to different morbid agents in time and space;
 - (b) know the dynamics of animal diseases diffusion;
 - (c) develop chronological models to forecast disease behavior;
 - (d) identify sources and means of transmission;
 - (e) delimit endemic and free areas establishing operational criteria of alarms and endemicity in order to define protection measures for free areas.
6. Evaluation of the progress of control programs.
7. Increased utilization of epidemiological information by staff members of animal health services.

This effort implied the utilization of new methodology beyond the traditional scope of sanitary statistical services.

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