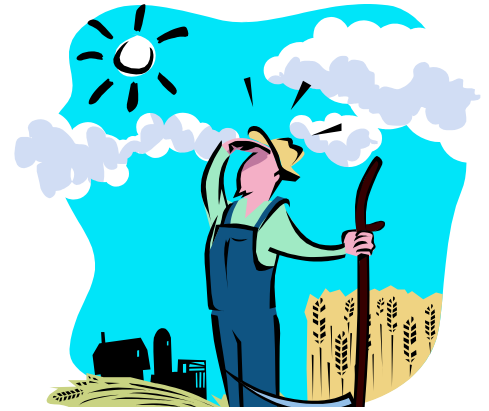




May 2013



Dairy News

Isn't Technology Wonderful

There is currently a milk-based pregnancy test produced by the IDEXX company and marketed through Ag Source and other companies. It detects pregnancy associated glycoproteins (PAGs) which are produced when a cow is pregnant and rise in concentration as the gestation progresses.

It is very accurate, affordable at \$4.50 per cow and can find cows that are open at 28 days post breeding.

Of course, you are waiting for the "Yes, but..." that comes with new technology.

After calving, or in cases of abortions, PAG levels will remain high for a short period and give a false positive. PAG levels are higher as gestation length gets longer so the PAG tests are more accurate in later gestation.

PAG levels give you no information about twins, the age of the fetus, structure of the ovaries

on open cows nor does it suggest a course of action for open cows.

So what is it good for?

The PAG test shines as a late pregnancy recheck. It can be done while doing monthly DHI testing so the cows do not need to be locked up and given a rectal exam. Cows determined to be open with the PAG test can then be rectal examined to determine the course of action. The problem with persistent levels of PAGs after abortions is less of a problem because late term abortions are usually much more noticeable.

PAG testing may have a place on your farm. Star Trek technology is one step closer.

- Dr. Bill Koffman

Drop Ship Specials

June & July 2013

- > Excenel
- > Naxcel
- > Banamine
- > Flumix
- > Merial Rebate continues until June 30, 2013 (includes: Cystorelin, J-vac, Eprinex & Ivomec) Call office for more details.