



Vol 1. #5

Good Morning. It is August 13th. We will be hosting a national program on Applied Reproductive Strategies in Billings the second week of September at the Briarwood Country Club. You are invited to come and hear the nations experts discuss such topics as estrus synchronization, breeding soundness exams, sexed semen and the use of ultrasound for pregnancy diagnosis. **There are 14 CEU credits for veterinarians and ET technicians.** The second article is a summary of our research in feeding field peas to 80 steers at the MSU Research Farm in Bozeman.

Beef Cattle Reproductive Issues Focus of Sept 11-12 Meeting in Billings

The Beef Reproduction Task Force along with other state and national experts will join forces to host an intensive workshop on reproductive strategies for beef cattle.

The workshop, "Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle," will be held in Billings, MT September 11 - 12. This will be the eighth national meeting the Task Force has coordinated throughout the U.S. in response to popular demand. Billings provides a great setting for the program given the large seedstock and cow calf industries in the state and region.

The excellent pregnancy rates possible with today's synchronization systems and the increasing opportunities to get paid for specific known genetics make estrous synchronization and AI (artificial insemination) even more valuable tools than they have been in the past.

This meeting is for anyone interested in beef cattle reproduction and estrous synchronization, including producers, veterinarians, AI technicians and Extension personnel.

The workshops are designed to improve the understanding of the physiological processes of the estrous cycle, currently available procedures to synchronize estrus and ovulation and the proper application of these systems. They will also focus on improving participants' understanding of methods to assess male fertility and how it affects the success of AI programs.

First-day topics will include information on the physiological principles underlying estrous synchronization, a detailed review of current estrous synchronization systems, costs, nutrition and reproduction interactions, and dealing with non-cycling females, among others.

Day two sessions will include presentations on breeding soundness exams, sexed semen, industry application of technology in male reproduction, embryo transfer and the use of ultrasound for early pregnancy diagnosis and fetal sexing.

Interested persons can check the Web site <http://westcentral.unl.edu/beefrepro/> for more information. John Paterson, Montana State University Extension Beef Specialist is the local contact and can be reached at 406-994-5562; johnp@montana.edu. Or you can call Anita at 994-3414 to register.

The workshops are coordinated by the Beef Reproduction Task Force, (members in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Virginia) in cooperation with the Montana State University Cooperative Extension Service.

Field Peas in Growing Finishing Rations

Last winter, producers requested that we conduct a growth trial with steers to determine how substituting field peas for barley grain would influence performance. Eighty steers were allotted to four treatments containing increasing levels of peas; 0, 18, 27 and 36%. The composition and calculated nutrient content of the diets are in the following table.

Composition and nutrient profiles of diets containing increasing amounts of field peas

Ingredient	<i>Percentage of Peas in the Ration (As Fed)</i>			
	0	18	27	36
Cracked Peas	0	18	27	36
Chopped Wheat Hay	18	18	18	18
Rolled Barley Grain	46	36	30	25
Barley Malt Sprouts	31	24	20	16
Commercial Supplement	5	5	5	5
Composition				
Dry matter	92	91	91	91
Crude protein	19.8	19.4	19.1	19.8
Net Energy for gain	.5	.5	.5	.5
Calcium	.6	.6	.6	.6
Phosphorus	.4	.4	.4	.4

Performance of steers fed increasing amounts of field peas

	<i>Percentage of Peas in Ration (As Fed)</i>			
	0	18	27	36
Initial weight, lbs	822	822	821	820
Final weight, lbs	1094	1130	1122	1122
Daily gain, lbs	2.9	3.2	3.2	3.2
As Fed Intake, lbs	29.3	30.8	31.1	32.0
Yield Grade	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.2
% Choice or better	58	79	75	79

Summary. Substituting peas into the barley-barley sprout based diets did not decrease daily gains, feed intakes, yield grades or quality grades ($P > 0.01$) at the highest levels of inclusion (36%). We conclude from this experiment that field peas can be successfully incorporated into growing/finishing diets.

(Experiment conducted by Ryan Clark and Lindsey Wallace. Appreciation also to Circle S Seeds for their support of this research).