### Optimizing first service management and performance with fertility programs and targeted management strategies

#### Julio Giordano, DVM, MS, PhD Dairy Cattle Biology and Management Laboratory Department of Animal Science

Vermont Veterinary Medical Association, Vermont February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023







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### **Considerations about first breeding programs**

- First breeding program should be designed to:
  - Minimize days to AI after end of VWP
  - Maximize fertility of AI services
  - Control timing of pregnancy during lactation
- Define most relevant outcome(s) of interest
- Performance (e.g., P/AI, 21 d-PR, % AIE vs % TAI)
- Economics (e.g., reduce cost, maximize profits)
- Herd management (e.g., maximize/minimize AIE/TAI, spread labor, concentrate labor)
- All or specific combinations

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#### Timed AI is a great tool to increase P/AI

All-TAI with fertility programs is effective for controlling days to first AI and maximize fertility



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### Fertility programs include presynchronization of the estrous cycle to optimize P/AI



**Presynch-Ovsynch** (Moreira et al., 2001)



Designed to control days to AI and maximize chance of pregnancy (i.e., P/AI)

### **GnRH-based fertility programs are more effective than PGF-based protocols**



### **GnRH-based fertility programs are more effective than PGF-based protocols**



PGF-based versus GnRH-based protocols GnRH-based fertility programs may improve P/AI as compared to PGFbased programs in particular for primiparous cows and herds with a high proportion of anovular cows in early lactation

(Herlihy et al., 2012; Borchardt et al., 2017)





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### VWP duration can affect performance of fertility programs

- Cows bred for first time with TAI after
  Double-Ovsynch at
  60 or 88 DIM
- Same management after first breeding



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#### Extending VWP from 60 to 88 DIM resulted in physiological conditions more favorable for pregnancy



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#### ☐ Increased % cyclic before synch protocol

- □ Primi = 17 p.p.
- ☐ Multi = 20 p.p.
- Reduced PVD (clinical endometritis) and SCE (subclinical endometritis)
  - ☞ Primi = PVD 25 p.p.
  - ✓ Multi = PVD 11 p.p.
- □ Increased % with BCS ≥2.75 before TAI
  - □ Primi = 5 p.p.
  - Multi = 12 p.p.  $\overline{}$

Stangaferro et al., 2018 JDS(101)717-735

#### **Effect of extending VWP on fertility depended on parity group**



Stangaferro et al., 2018 JDS(101)717-735

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#### Pregnancy was Delayed for VWP88 but Percent Pregnant at 350 DIM was the Same

On average cows in 88 d VWP became pregnant later than cows in 60 d VWP group

No difference in %
pregnant at end of
lactation



### Greater Cash Flow for PRIMIPAROUS Cows Bred at 88 than 60 DIM

		Primiparous								
	VWP60	VWP88	Diff	P-val						
Number of cows	480	471	-	-						
	\$/slot pe	er 18 mo								
Cash flow (\$/slot)	1,756 ± 148	1,824 ± 148	68	0.32						
	+\$68 X	VWP88								

Replacement cost greatest contributor to cash flow difference

□ Effect was on replacement cost in subsequent lact (i.e., 2<sup>nd</sup> lactation)

### **Greater Cash Flow for MULTIPAROUS Cows Bred at 60 than 88 DIM**

		Primiparous								
	VWP60	VWP88	Diff	P-val						
Number of cows	785	789	-	-						
	\$/slot p	er 18 mo								
Cash flow (\$/slot)	2,006 ± 124	1,921 ± 124	-85	0.19						
	-\$85 X Lo	ng VWP								

Income over feed cost (IOFC) explained half of the difference – later pregnancy reduces efficiency in multiparous cows

Replacement cost in extended VWP lactation – more culling pressure on open cows in later lactation

Stangaferro et al., 2018 JDS(101)7500-7516

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### VWP duration effects highlights

- Effect of VWP duration on cash flow
- depended on parity



- □ Primiparous cows benefited by 88 d VWP
- ☐ Multiparous cows benefited by 60 d VWP
- Direction and magnitude of economic differences were consistent under conditions of 10 yr of simulated market variation
  - Under conditions of typical variation in inputs and outputs prices primiparous benefited by 88 d and multiparous by 60 d VWP



#### **VWP based on Parity – Longer for Primiparous than Multiparous** [BRED] EGRAPH EC=5 FOR LACT>0\SN1T150 BY LGRF



UTU LITE SCIENCE:

#### Timed AI is a great tool to increase P/AI All-TAI with fertility programs is effective for controlling days to first AI and maximize fertility Example Proven Fertility Programs for First Service Presynch-Ovsynch (Moreira et al., 2001) 14 days 12 days 7 days 56 h 16 h GnRH PGF<sub>2n</sub> GnRH TAI PGF<sub>20</sub> PGF<sub>2a</sub> Double-Ovsynch (Souza et al., 2008) 7 days 7 days 3 days 7 days 56 h 16 h PGF<sub>2a</sub> GnRH GnRH GnRH GnRH TAI PGF<sub>2</sub> **G6G** (Bello et al., 2006) 7 days 56 h 16 h 2 davs 6 days GnRH GnRH TAI PGF<sub>2a</sub> GnRH PGF<sub>20</sub>

Cornelicals College of Agriculture and Life Sciences J. Dairy Sci. 100:8507–8517 https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2017-13210 © American Dairy Science Association<sup>®</sup>, 2017.

Fertility of lactating Holstein cows submitted to a <u>Double-Ovsynch</u> protocol and timed artificial insemination versus artificial insemination after synchronization of estrus at a similar day in milk range

V. G. Santos,\* P. D. Carvalho,\* C. Maia,† B. Carneiro,† A. Valenza,‡ and P. M. Fricke<sup>\*1</sup> \*Department of Dairy Science, University of Wisconsin, Madison 53706 †Diessen Serviços Veterinários Lda, 7001 Évora, Portugal ‡Ceva Santé Animale, 10 Avenue de la Ballastiere, 33500 Libourne, France





J. Dairy Sci. 101:1–14 https://doi.org/10.3168/jds.2017-13425 © American Dairy Science Association<sup>®</sup>, 2018.

Reproductive performance and herd exit dynamics of lactating dairy cows managed for first service with the Presynch-Ovsynch or Double-Ovsynch protocol and different duration of the voluntary waiting period

M. L. Stangaferro, R. Wijma, M. Masello, and J. O. Giordano<sup>1</sup> Department of Animal Science, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853



#### Fertility program plus extended VWP increased first service P/AI compared with AIE+TAI

Item

Avg (AIE+TAI)



		(1,230)	(1,330)	
_		NA	47.0*	NA
			(954)	
	TAI	58.1	52.5*	0.03†
		(1230)	(376)	
	*AIE vs TAI with Double-Ovs	synch P<0.05	-	
et.+AI	1 <sup>st</sup> Lact cows	TAI (Doι	uble-Ovs	ynch)
	at 84 DIM had			
	in combined	program	that rec	eived

or when ombared Sitko et al. 2019 (JDS; Abstract)

Group

%, (n)

TAI

58.6<sup>A</sup>

14 2201

AIE+TAI

**48.4**<sup>B</sup>

(1 220)

**P-value** 

< 0.0001



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### Fertility program plus extended VWP increased first service P/AI compared with AIE+TAI



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# Fertility programs used for 100% TAI lead to greater first service P/AI than combined programs

First service P/AI was always greater for TAI than AIE+TAI programs when:

-When AIE and TAI services occurred at the same range of DIM than 100% TAI

-Average DIM at first service where the same for AIE+TAI than 100% TAI

-AIE for AIE + TAI program occurred earlier than for 100% TAI program **Greater P/AI at first** services does not mean that 100% TAI is best alternative to increase pregnancy rate during lactation!

### Programs that combine AIE + TAI can be as effective as 100% TAI at same range of DIM



#### Programs that combine AIE + TAI can be as effective as 100% TAI programs + extended VWP



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TREATMENT

# Fertility programs used for 100% TAI lead to greater first service P/AI than combined programs

Combined programs may need a shorter VWP to compensate for lower P/AI as compared to effective 100% TAI programs +/extended VWP

Design program to have at least the same average DIM for combined than TAI program and maximize P/AI for AIE and TAI services

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Days in milk (DIM)



**P-AIE** 

	Br Elig	Bred	Pct	Pg Elig	Preg	Pct A		Date	Br Elig	Bred	Pct	Pg Elig	Preg	Pct A			Br Elig	Bred	Pct	Pg Elig	Preg	Pct A	
6/24/20	 13	===== 13	=== 100	====== 13		=== = 54	 0	<u> </u>	 19	==== 5	=== 26	 19	===== 3	=== =: 16	 0	6/03/20	 21	===== 4	=== 19	 21	=====	=== =: 5	
7/15/20	31	30	97	31	11	35	3	6/24/20	48	25	52	47	5	11	2	6/24/20	47	26	55	46	8	17	0
8/05/20	49	43	88	49	26	53	0	7/15/20	63	40	63	62	18	29	2	7/15/20	64	46	72	64	21	33	0
8/26/20	38	28	74	38	13	34	1	8/05/20	68	52	76	66	25	38	4	8/05/20	65	39	60	65	14	22	2
9/16/20	43	36	84	42	18	43	0	8/26/20	63	36	57	63	21	33	1	8/26/20	75	50	67	75	21	28	0
10/07/20	52	46	88	52	21	40	2	9/16/20	66	51	77	65	15	23	2	9/16/20	79	61	77	76	18	24	1
10/28/20	57	46	81	54	22	41	1	10/07/20	79	50	63	78	24	31	0	10/07/20	87	61	70	84	23	27	1
11/18/20	58	45	78	55	25	45	1	10/28/20	81	57	70	77	22	29	0	10/28/20	84	62	74	82	33	40	2
12/09/20	56	46	82	54	20	37	1	11/18/20	77	47	61	76	27	36	3	11/18/20	79	52	66	75	13	17	3
12/30/20	64	49	77	64	27	42	0	12/09/20	80	55	69	80	21	26	1	12/09/20	93	61	66	91	29	32	0
1/20/21	59	52	88	56	26	46	0	12/30/20	84	60	71	83	28	34	2	12/30/20	85	62	73	83	25	30	1
2/10/21	59	47	80	0	0	0	0	1/20/21	88	49	56	85	21	25	0	1/20/21	88	57	65	85	25	29	1
3/03/21	59	57	97	0	0	0	0	2/10/21	102	74	73	0	0	0	0	2/10/21	94	67	71	0	0	0	0
								3/03/21	92	71	77	0	0	0	0	3/03/21	89	65	73	0	0	0	0
Total	<b>52</b> 0	434	83	508	216	43	9							·									
								Total	816	527	65	801	230	29	17	Total	867	581	67	847	231	27	11
Wait Peri	od 80																						1
								Wait Peri	od 50							Wait Peri	od 50						
																							-

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**P-AIE** 

Date	Br Elig	Bred	Pct	Pg Elig	Preg	Pct Ab	orts	Date	Br Elig	Bred	Pct	Pg Elig	Preg	Pct A	borts	Date	Br Elig	Bred	Pct	Pg Elig	Preg	Pct Ak	borts
		====	===		====	=== ==	====			====	===		====	=== =:				====	===		====	=== ==	
6/03/20	21	0	0	21	0	0	0	6/03/20	19	5	26	19	3	16	0	6/03/20	21	4	19	21	1	5	0
6/24/20	52	17	33	52	9	17	1	6/24/20	48	25	52	47	5	11	2	6/24/20	47	26	55	46	8	17	0
7/15/20	73	37	51	73	13	18	3	7/15/20	63	40	63	62	18	29	2	7/15/20	64	46	72	64	21	33	0
8/05/20	82	47	57	82	28	34	0	8/05/20	68	52	76	66	25	38	4	8/05/20	65	39	60	65	14	22	2
8/26/20	72	39	54	70	17	24	2	8/26/20	63	36	57	63	21	33	1	8/26/20	75	50	67	75	21	28	0
9/16/20	80	41	51	79	18	23	0	9/16/20	66	51	77	65	15	23	2	9/16/20	79	61	77	76	18	24	1
10/07/20	95	53	56	95	24	25	2	10/07/20	79	50	63	78	24	31	0	10/07/20	87	61	70	84	23	27	1
10/28/20	94	54	57	91	23	25	1	10/28/20	81	57	70	77	22	29	0	10/28/20	84	62	74	82	33	40	2
11/18/20	100	51	51	97	28	29	2	11/18/20	77	47	61	76	27	36	3	11/18/20	79	52	66	75	13	17	3
12/09/20	102	53	52	100	21	21	1	12/09/20	80	55	69	80	21	26	1	12/09/20	93	61	66	91	29	32	0
12/30/20	102	57	56	102	31	30	0	12/30/20	84	60	71	83	28	34	2	12/30/20	85	62	73	83	25	30	1
1/20/21	106	59	56	103	29	28	0	1/20/21	88	49	56	85	21	25	0	1/20/21	88	57	65	85	25	29	1
2/10/21	116	55	47	0	0	0	0	2/10/21	102	74	73	0	0	0	0	2/10/21	94	67	71	0	0	0	0
3/03/21	104	67	64	0	0	0	0	3/03/21	92	71	77	0	0	0	0	3/03/21	89	65	73	0	0	0	0
Total	9	508	52	965	241	25	12	Total	816	527	65	801	230	29	17	Total	867	581	67	847	231	27	11
Wait Perio	o. 50							Wait Peri	oc 50							Wait Peri	oa 50						

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# Pros and cons of use of all-TAI with fertility programs

- Great tool to maximize P/AI of individual services but may not always maximize the pregnancy rate compared to other programs
- Can be difficult and expensive to implement for some farms
- Growing interest on reducing cow disruption by some farms

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#### Programs that combine AIE and TAI can be effective



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## Use programs that prioritize AIE rather than TAI to maximize use of AEDS



# P4-Ovsynch with two PGF is a good protocol to use in combined programs



# How can we make the best use of both technologies?

TAI





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# Automated detection of estrus is a great tool to optimize reproduction

- Using AED systems is an effective but imperfect strategy for submission to AI
  - R Not all cows express estrus or are detected
  - P/AI is typically not maximized with AI at detected estrus
- Many herds increasing estrous detection efficiency and fertility after AI at detected estrus (AIE) – role of AED systems
- Data generated by AED systems can be used to improve reproductive management

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		e 224F8D
ltem	Visual	AED system <sup>1</sup>
	Observation <sup>2</sup>	
Estrus	84.7%	84.3%
Ovulation	83.3%	83.3%
	P > 0.10) betweer f cows detected in	



### **Targeted reproductive management strategies (TRMS)**

**Subgroups of cows** that share biological features and expected performance are managed with programs designed to optimize reproductive performance, management, and profitability.



### **Evaluated effect of TRMS based on automated estrus alert (AEA) occurrence during the VWP**



Rial et al., 2021 J. Dairy Sci. Volume 104, E-Supplement 1

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#### **Cows with AEA during the VWP were more likely to be inseminated in estrus**



**Providing cows more or less time to receive AIE based on AEA:** 

Did not increase or reduced the proportion of cows AIE

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Reduced DIM at first service by 4 d for cows with no AEA during the VWP

## First service P/AI good for cows AI in estrus but greater for the ALL-TAI treatment

		Treatment		
	TAI	P-AIE	<b>TP-AIE</b>	
	F	<i>P</i> -value		
Overall	49	43	42	0.08
Overall	(210/427)	(183/422)	(174/413)	
AIE				
ΤΑΙ				
•	ous had greater P/AI than mul son greater P/AI than warm s	•		

## First service P/AI good for cows AI in estrus but greater for the ALL-TAI treatment

		Treatment		
	TAI			
	F	P/AI % (n/r	1)	P-value
Overall	49	43	42	0.08
Overall	(210/427)	(183/422)	(174/413)	
	NI/A	44	45	0.93
AIE	N/A	(131/299)	(127/281)	
ΤΑΙ				
· · · · ·	us had greater P/AI than mu on greater P/AI than warm s	•		

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## First service P/AI good for cows AI in estrus but greater for the ALL-TAI treatment

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	NI/A	44	45	0.93
AIE	N/A	(131/299)	(127/281)	
ТЛІ	<b>49</b> <sup>a</sup>	<b>42</b> <sup>ab</sup>	<b>36</b> <sup>b</sup>	0.03
ΤΑΙ	(210/427)	(52/123)	(47/132)	

#### Greater preg. rate for TRMS based on AEA and Non-TRM that prioritized AIE than ALL-TAI



Rial et al., 2021 J. Dairy Sci. Volume 104, E-Supplement 1

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**TP-AIE** 

(n = 428)

n

Λ

8/26/20 8/26/20 8/26/20 9/16/20 9/16/20 9/16/20 10/07/20 10/07/20 10/07/20 10/28/20 10/28/20 10/28/20 11/18/20 11/18/20 11/18/20 12/09/20 12/09/20 12/09/20 12/30/20 12/30/20 12/30/20 1/20/21 1/20/21 1/20/21 2/10/21 2/10/21 2/10/21 3/03/21 3/03/21 3/03/21 -----\_ \_ \_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_\_\_ ----\_\_\_ Total Total Total Wait Period 50 Wait Period 50 Wait Period 50 21d – PR 21d – PR 21d – PR 25% 29% 27%

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# Choosing a program that works to reach goals



**AII-TAI** 

#### **Combined AIE+TAI**







- Likely to maximize P/AI and lead to excellent 21d-PR measured after end of VWP
- Combined with extended VWP can safely shift timing of pregnancy to later lactation
- More dependent on compliance and setup than cow biology

#### **Combined AIE+TAI**



- Unlikely to maximize overall P/AI
- Combined with shortened VWP can lead to excellent preg rate after calving
- Highly dependent of estrous detection efficiency and P/AI of AIE services

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### Acknowledgements



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#### Dairy Cattle Biology & Management Laboratory







United States Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture

This work was supported by the **USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture**, Animal Health Program **Project # 2017-67015-26772**, **Hatch project NYC-2020-21-255**, and **Multistate project 1021189**. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) or the United States Department of Agriculture(USDA)".

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TITE





#### **Commercial dairy farms**

### **Thank You! Questions?**

