

New Pregnancy Test is Easy to Use and Embryo Safe

Cattle breeders have long sought an easier, more efficient way to confirm pregnancy. Historically, most breeders have waited until a herd check could be scheduled and a veterinarian could palpate the cows. This can be a challenging delay, exasperated even further if pregnancy confirmation mistakes are made by inexperienced palpation technicians. The sooner pregnancy can be confirmed, faster and better management decisions can be made, including earlier rebreeding and a shorter calving interval. One option to confirm pregnancy sooner, and with less labor hassles is a blood-based pregnancy test known as BioPRYN®. This test is available through a number of laboratories across the U.S., and it can confirm pregnancy as soon as 30 days after breeding. The test is 99 percent accurate when an animal is identified as non-pregnant.

Safe option

A useful management tool for cattle operations of all sizes, BioPRYN offers accuracy that is cost-effective and easy-to-use. "Producers from large and small operations find different benefits to utilizing our blood test for pregnancy detection," explains Jeremy Howard of BioTracking. "Larger operations can administer the test soon enough to breed the cow back for a calf that still fits within their calving window. Breeders with fewer animals are able to preg-check cows when they're ready to be checked. Before, many had to wait until enough needed checking to make it cost-effective to pay someone to come out. BioPRYN also allows breeders to work cattle when it fits into their schedule."

"After 30 days we use BioPRYN to confirm pregnancies in the spring and administer it again in the fall to double check," says Ben Congrove of Congrove Farms. "If they don't take the embryos, we have time to make the management decision to turn them back in with the clean up bull or catch them on their next heat." Ben runs a club calf recipient program with about 75 recipient cattle near Laurelville, Ohio.

With the use of the blood test, breeders also may reduce the chance of losing a pregnancy. Many breeders are concerned with these losses, due to invasive palpation, increased handling stress to the female, or a combination of effects. "We transfer a lot of high dollar embryos made from expensive club calf bull semen," explains Congrove. "We've come to rely on BioPRYN to avoid abortion loss and eliminate the risk of invasive palpations."

"University research has shown that palpation can cause anywhere from 2 to 11 percent death loss from the invasiveness of the technique alone. For valuable pregnancies, that's quite bit of risk," says Howard. "This test eliminates the risk of potential trauma to the embryo and disruption of the pregnancy that palpation can sometimes cause."

A simple blood sample which can be easily taken from the cow's tail is all that is needed to perform a pregnancy diagnosis with BioPRYN.



Scientifically based, yet easy to use

Pregnancy Specific Protein B (PSPB) was discovered by retired professor emeritus Dr. R. Garth Sasser during his career at the University of Idaho. He developed BioPRYN at BioTracking, LLC, which evaluates the presence of PSPB in the circulation of the animal. PSPB is only produced by the placenta of a growing fetus, which ensures a high level of accuracy in testing.

The BioPRYN blood test easily can be taken from under the tail after minimal instruction, making it an easy alternative that does not require specialized training or extensive experience. As long as 90 days have passed since the last calving, pregnancy can be confirmed as soon as 30 days after breeding or 25 days post implant using embryo transfer. Once a BioPRYN lab receives the blood sample, test results can be produced in 27 hours and are then sent out to breeders via fax, phone, or e-mail.

For Congrove, the quick results have allowed him to get a better handle on his herd and expected calving dates. By knowing which embryos settled and generated pregnancies, he's able to prepare for calving of his highly valuable ET calves. "The biggest thing we've learned is that with BioPRYN we have a definite date," says Congrove. "By testing exactly 30 days out, we can pinpoint which cows are pregnant and when they will calve."

It's important for breeders to look at new reproductive tools in order to keep moving forward at the same pace as the fast progressing industry. For show cattle breeders, the early detection, non-invasive detecting, and shortened calving interval can significantly improve efficiency within a breeding program. BioPRYN gives breeders the freedom to pregnancy check on their own, and confidence in results that allow time to make the correct reproductive management decisions for their herd.

Club calf breeders are encouraged to contact BioTracking LLC at (208) 882-9736 or visit www.biotracking.com for more information on BioPRYN, including the lab nearest them.