

## Pregnant = Profit (Part 2)

Last month, in the first part of this series, we discussed how important getting cows pregnant efficiently is to a farm's profitability. According to University of Wisconsin researchers, there are 4 keys to achieving a high pregnancy rate:

1. Aggressively inseminate cows at the end of the voluntary waiting period
2. Increase fertility to first AI
3. Identify nonpregnant cows and aggressively reinseminate them
4. Increase fertility to 2<sup>nd</sup> and greater AI

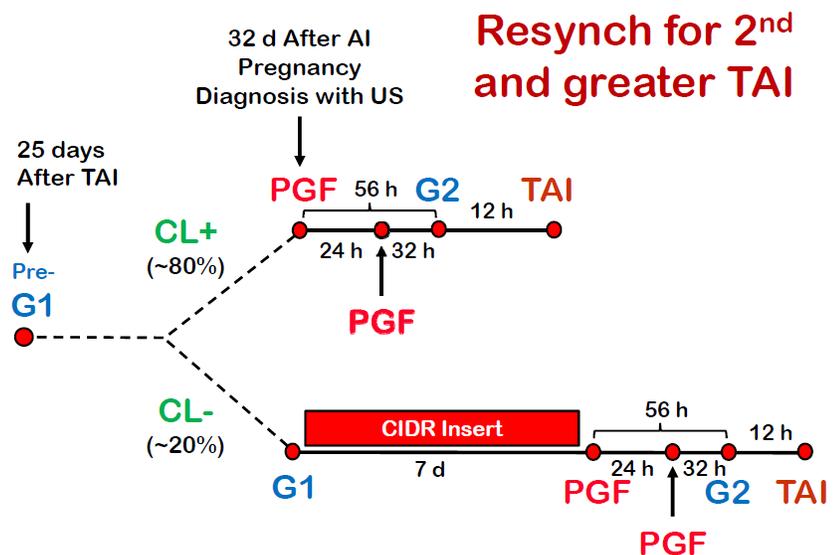
We discussed the first two keys in detail last month. This month we'll discuss Keys 3 and 4.

### Key 3: Identify nonpregnant cows and aggressively reinseminate them

Nonpregnant cows can either be identified by watching for them to come back into heat, or they may be found during pregnancy check with your veterinarian. There should be a plan in place for these cows that are found open. Tools that are often used to find cows that have come back into heat before pregnancy check include tail chalk/paint, activity monitoring systems, and daily observation for heats. A good way to quickly reinseminate cows found open at pregnancy check is to have a re-synchronization plan in place for them. Whatever you decide to use, the goal is to get the open cow bred again as soon as possible.

### Key 4: Increase fertility to 2<sup>nd</sup> and greater AI

The use of re-synchronization protocols that were discussed in last month's newsletter will help to increase fertility in cows that are being bred multiple times. Incorporating 2 prostaglandin injections, like we discussed in the ovsynch protocols, will also help increase conception rates. Utilizing the information that your veterinarian gives at pregnancy check as to what ovarian structures are present, such as whether or not she has a corpus luteum (CL), can help direct you to the proper resynchronization protocol and increase the cow's chances of getting pregnant. To the right, is an example of a common re-synchronization protocol used at pregnancy check based on whether or not the cow has a CL.



Every farm is not suited for the programs that have been discussed in this series. Different things work for different farms. You may want to try all the things discussed in this series, or maybe just bits and pieces. Work with your veterinarian to decide what reproduction program will bring your farm the best results.