

**EFFECT OF TIME OF PERMANENCE OF A EAR PROGESTAGEN IMPLANT ON THE PREGNANCY RATE OF COWS SYNCHRONIZED FOR FIXED TIME ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION**

Marques, M.O.<sup>1</sup>; Silva, R.C.P.<sup>1</sup>; Ayres, H.<sup>2</sup>; Souza, A.H.<sup>2</sup>; Baruselli, P.S.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>FIRMASA IATF, Campo Grande-MS, Brazil. <sup>2</sup>Animal Reproduction Department, FMVZ-USP, Sao Paulo-SP, Brazil. [barusell@usp.br](mailto:barusell@usp.br)

Currently, the fixed time artificial insemination (FTAI) technique is widely used, and it is necessary to optimize the management system to save labor and reduce costs for implementing this biotechnology. Protocols that use the Norgestomet ear implant have been recommended to be used for 9 consecutive days when associated with Estradiol Valerate at the implant insertion. Based on this data we performed a study to test differing periods of progesterone ear implant treatment in suckling Nelore cows in protocols for FTAI using Norgestomet and estradiol valerate. Thus, we evaluated the effectiveness of using a progestagen ear implant for 10 days. This could maximize and facilitate cattle management during protocols for FTAI. Moreover, this would reduce the costs of treating cattle in FTAI programs. Non-pre synchronized animals (n = 567) with 40 to 60 days postpartum, received an ear implant Norgestomet (Crestar<sup>®</sup>, Intervet, Brazil) associated with 3 mg of Norgestomet and 5 mg of estradiol Valerate (i.m.). Then, animals were divided in two groups: on the Group-9 (n=258) the ear implant was removed after 9 days. On the Group-10 (n=309) the ear implant was removed after 10 days. At the time of implant removal, cows received 300 UI of eCG (Folligon<sup>®</sup>, Intervet, Brazil). All cows were bred between 52 and 56 hours after the ear implant removal. Pregnancy diagnosis was performed by ultrasound 55 days after FTAI. The pregnancy rates were analyzed with the Chi-Square test. The results were: Group-9, 57.7% (149/258) and Group-10 56.3% (174/309; p>0.05). These results indicate that protocols with 9 or 10 days of ear implant produce similar pregnancy rates after fixed time artificial insemination. This allows to an ear implant use for 9 or 10 days.