

## EFFECT OF CALVING MONTH ON PREGNANCY RATES OF BEEF COWS SYNCHRONIZED FOR FIXED TIME ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

Penteado, L.<sup>1</sup>; Marques, M.O.<sup>3</sup>; Silva, R.C.P.<sup>3</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, São Paulo-SP, Brazil. <sup>3</sup>GERAEMBRYO, Cornélio Procópio-PR, Brazil. [barusell@usp.br](mailto:barusell@usp.br)

In Brazil, the beef cattle farms aim to concentrate the calvings at the beginning of the calving season (July/August) because cows calving earlier have better reproduction performance (shorter calving intervals, greater conception rates, greater percentage of cyclicity, among others). In addition, these cows will produce calves with higher weaning weight. Based on this data, a retrospective study was performed to evaluate the effect of the calving month on conception rates of suckling beef cows (*Bos indicus* and *Bos indicus* x *Bos taurus*). In this study 7,879 suckling cows were used with 50 to 70 days after birth located in commercial farms in Brasilândia and Ribas do Rio Pardo (MS). Non pre-synchronized cows received a Norgestomet (Crestar, Intervet, Brazil) ear implant (D0), previously used for 9 days, associated with 2 mg of Estradiol Benzoate, IM. On Day 8, the ear implant was removed and all animals received 300 UI of eCG (Folligon, Intervet, Brazil) plus 0.150mg of D-Cloprostenol (PGF2 $\alpha$ , Preloban<sup>®</sup>, Intervet, Brazil). All cows were inseminated between 54 and 58h after implant removal. Pregnancy diagnosis was performed by ultrasound 55 days after TAI. Cows were divided according to its calving month, Group 7-9 (n=1,840) calved in July and September of 2005, Group 10 (n=1,586) calved in October of 2005, Group 11 (n=2,302) Calved in November of 2005, and Group 12 (n=2,151) calved in December of 2005 and January of 2006. The possible interactions were analyzed with the ANOVA test of SAS for Windows and there were no detectable effects of farm and breed. Pregnancy rates were analyzed with the Chi-Square test. The results were: Group 7-9 58.26% (1072/1840)<sup>a</sup>, Group 10 54.16% (859/1586)<sup>b</sup>, Group 11 51.61% (1188/2302)<sup>b</sup>, Group 12 46.95 (1010/2151)<sup>c</sup>, p<0.05). The results indicated that cows calving earlier in the calving season have greater conception rates after timed artificial insemination protocols.