



DAIRY CATTLE REPRODUCTION COUNCIL

## Q&A: We've Made Changes After the DCRC Meeting

It seems producers, veterinarians, nutritionists and other allied industry professionals spend a good portion of their time in meetings. These meetings, much like the annual DCRC convention, occur frequently to share research findings, new protocols and producer insight, with the ultimate goal of improving herd reproduction.

During the producer panelist portion of the 2008 meeting, one producer mentioned that he had implemented new processes after attending previous DCRC meetings. This comment sparked our interest, leading us to ask "What changes have veterinarians, producers and industry professionals made based on information shared at DCRC?"

Below is a Q&A with Dr. Timothy Trayer of Agricultural Veterinary Associates in Denver, Pennsylvania, discussing what he learned at the 2008 meeting and what he intends to put into action at his veterinary practice.



Dr. Timothy Trayer,  
Agricultural  
Veterinary Associates  
Denver, Pennsylvania

### **What were your thoughts on the 2008 meeting?**

The 2008 conference was the first DCRC meeting I have attended and I am glad I was able to do so. I thought the meeting was a great place to bring together all different aspects of the dairy industry with the common goal of improving herd reproduction through a variety of proven methods.

It's not often that I can interact with veterinarians, producers, A.I. representatives, key researchers and other industry leaders all in one place. By integrating together as an industry we can share what we're doing with one another. It was an educational and inclusive experience.

### **What speakers and subjects were most interesting to you?**

I learned a lot from the synchronization talks, but what I enjoyed most about the A.I. protocol presentations was how all of the experts on synchronization were in the same room to talk about their research. Their talks were able to support one another while attendees had a chance to ask questions the researchers may have different viewpoints on. I really enjoyed how the group of speakers could answer questions that were best covered when multiple people were involved.

### **What have you taken home with you from the meeting?**

The main thing that I took away was the enthusiasm to challenge my producer clients to further improve their reproductive programs and results. There was a lot of great material covered that I believe can be put into practice by my clients to make further improvements.

### **What changes are you interested in implementing into your practice?**

#### **How do you plan to make these changes?**

There were a few initial changes that have come from the DCRC meeting:

- **Updated software program.** We offer our clients the option of setting up a timed A.I.-protocol schedule for each group of their cows to ensure each cow gets bred in a timely fashion. We have a spreadsheet



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with all of this information and the dairy can look each day to see which pens need to be given shots at what time, and all of the information is accessible to the producer in one place. Since returning from the meeting we have updated our computer programs to account for different synchronization protocols including Presynch 12/Ovsynch® 56 and double Ovsynch.

- **Shot dosage.** We have adjusted our prostaglandin dosages to align with research recommendations and maximize reproductive performance within our clients' herds.
- **Metritis postcalving survey.** To gather more information about our clients' herds' uterine health postpartum, we have reviewed and developed a new postcalving survey. This allows us to learn more about how our clients are managing transition cows into the milking herd and set the tone for future reproductive success.

### **What do you think attendees gained from the 2008 DCRC meeting?**

One of the most exciting things I took away from the conference was how breaking reproductive research and new information can be customized to fit each herd's needs. In our practice we have utilized timed A.I. to make improvements in reproductive rates, and have had some great successes along with some failure. We have learned, as DCRC shared with attendees, that a program must fit a herd's needs and capabilities to be successful.

Did you make changes to your herd or your clients' herds based on information shared at DCRC? If so, we'd love to hear about it! Contact us (262) 563-5100 or [info@dcrcouncil.org](mailto:info@dcrcouncil.org).