

Beef Integrated Reproductive Management Grayson County Project

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Beef IRM Project



- The Beef Integrated Reproduction Management Program developed by the University of Kentucky Beef Extension Specialists has spread throughout the Commonwealth to include counties in the central and western part of the state..

Goal of Program

- The goal of the program was to develop a more controlled calving season, to incorporate better record keeping, increase weaning weights by better genetic selection, and to educate farmers on increased efficiency and profitability by using these techniques.
- This is a long term project for Grayson County.



Details

- Project: 2017- current
- Collaboration with UK Beef Specialists and local farmers
 - Dr. Les Anderson
 - Ben Crites
 - Kevin Laurent
- 3 year project term per producer
 - The goal is to be involved through the three years, but continue to utilize the extension service as a whole going forward.

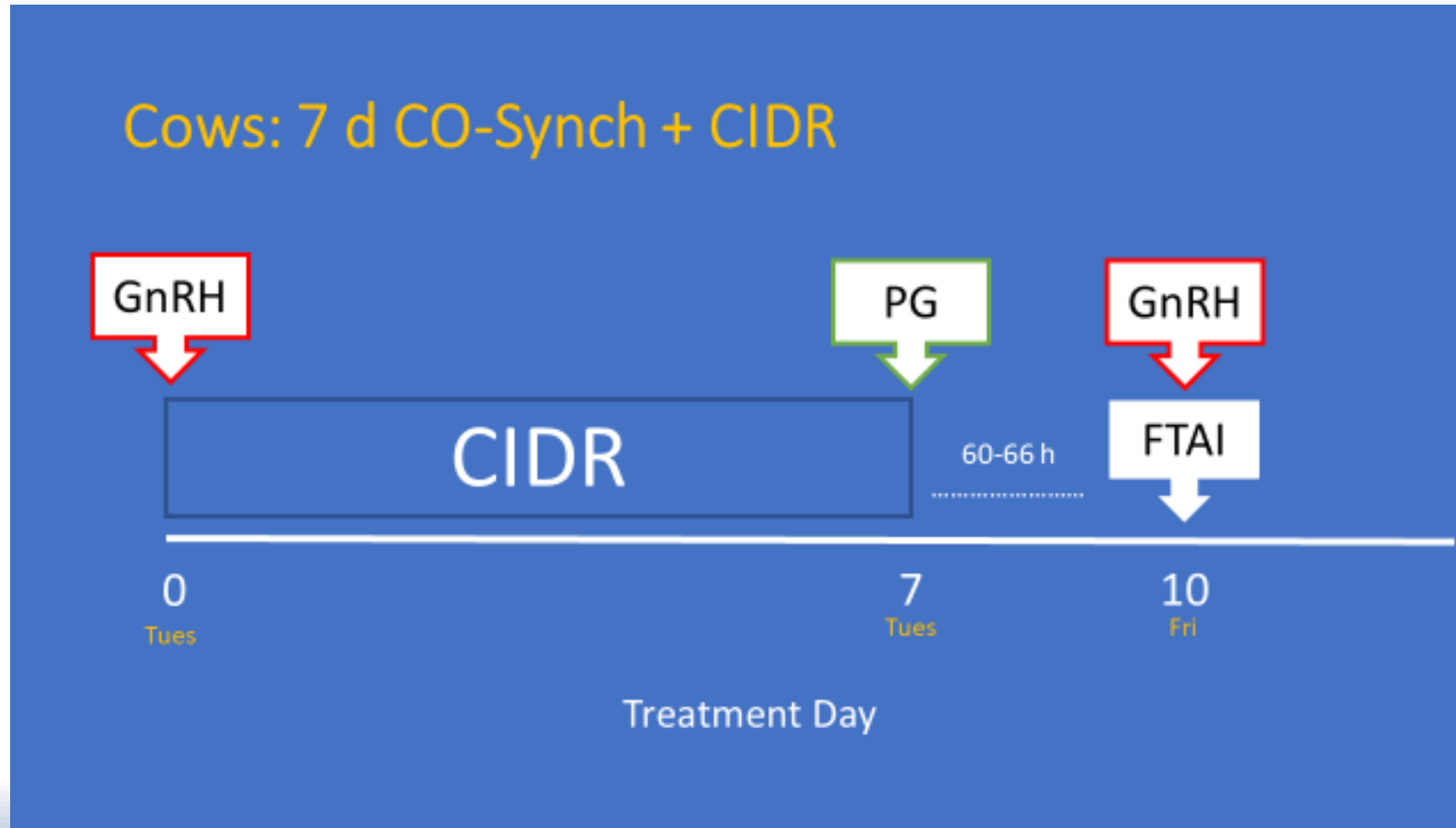


2017

- Grayson County had 3 producers involved
 - Two producers were part time farmers, 1 full-time
- Representing 51 cows
 - 36 Commercial, 15 Charloais
 - 2 Spring calving herds (27 cows total)
 - 1 Fall calving herd (24 cows)



Estrus Synchronization Artificial Insemination (EASI) Protocol



Results from 2017 (Spring Herd)

- 27 cows bred, 27 cows calved = 28 calves (one set of twins)
- 25 calves weaned (8% death loss)
 - Not every calf born was EASI. 25 of the 28 were from EASI, 3 were from natural service.
- Calving interval (# days from start to finish calving) decreased 10 days.

Cow/H #	Sire	Tech	BCS	Hair	notes	Date AI
54	Chief Justice	LA	5	5		6/13/2018
57	black imp	LA	5	5		6/13/2018
231	Chief Justice	LA	6	5	small pelv	6/13/2018
37	intimidate	LA	5	4		6/13/2018
300	Chief Justice	LA	6	5		6/13/2018
265	Chief Justice	LA	5	5		6/13/2018
282	Chief Justice	LA	5	4	small pelv	6/13/2018
357	black imp	LA	6	4		6/13/2018
150	intimidate	LA	7	5		6/13/2018
54	Chief Justice	LA	5	5		6/13/2018
128	Chief Justice	LA	5	5	small pelv	6/13/2018
90	Chief Justice	LA	5	5	crazy	6/13/2018
131	Chief Justice	LA	6	5		6/13/2018
139	Chief Justice	LA	6	4		6/13/2018
55	Chief Justice	LA	6	5		6/13/2018
122	Chief Justice	LA	6	5		6/13/2018
332	black imp	LA	6	4		6/13/2018
7	Chief Justice	LA	6	4		6/13/2018
267	Chief Justice	LA	6	5		6/13/2018
27	intimidate	LA	7	4		6/13/2018
341	Chief Justice	LA	6	4	nervous	6/13/2018
190	Chief Justice	LA	6	4		6/13/2018
92	Chief Justice	LA	6	5		6/13/2018
186	Chief Justice	LA	6	4		6/13/2018

Results 2017 Continued

- The average weaning weight in ESAI heifers was **89 pounds** compared to natural service heifers.
- ESAI bulls were average **44 pounds heavier**.
- Calves were sold in the period of 2 weeks in October 2018.
- Based on the Kentucky Department of Agriculture Livestock Market report, the average prices for bulls, steers, and heifers was \$1.40, \$1.51, and \$1.49 per hundred weight respectively.
- So for example, if the difference in weaning weight for heifers was 89 pounds, $89\text{lbs} \times (1.49 \text{ per pound}) \times 13 \text{ heifers} = \mathbf{\$1,723.93 \text{ increase in price}}$.
- For bulls that would be **\$739.20 increase**.

- Over time, this can be a significant amount of change for producers involved in this program. The fall calving herd will have information available after the first of the year.

Going Forward

- In spring of 2018, Added a young producer with 24 Angus heifers, bringing total animals in project to 75.
- As a result of this extension program so far, there has been changes in forage quality, vaccination protocols, and potential infrastructure changes, and more education and informed decisions based on Expected Progeny Differences (EPD's).
- The results of this project will be determined over the next 5 years to determine full potential of return on investment.

 College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment