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Records help in controlling infertility.

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INFERTILITY in a dairy herd causes serious losses to the individual farmer and to the dairying industry in general. Obviously, the sooner an infertility problem is recognised the better chance we have of remedying the trouble. Unfortunately, many dairy-farmers do not realise that they have an infertility problem until it has reached very serious proportions.

By keeping a simple record of services, it is a fairly easy matter to determine whether a herd is giving the normal response to services, or whether it is showing definite signs of infertility troubles.

WHAT IS INFERTILITY?

If all the cows and bulls we are dealing with were absolutely perfect in every way—and the feeding and management were equally perfect—every cow should conceive to the first service and in due course should produce a calf.

However, there is no such thing as a perfect herd and we find that while a proportion of the cows will hold to the first service others in the herd may need two or three services to become stocked. How then can we determine whether our herd is reasonably normal or whether we have the beginning of an infertility problem?

CONCEPTION RATES

The Conception Rate or "C.R." as it is commonly referred to is the percentage of cows holding to a particular service.

At Artificial Insemination Centres for instance, the C.R. is usually calculated on the first, second and third services.

Suppose, for instance that we had 100 cows served on the same day, and 23 of them returned to service by or on the 21st day, then the C.R. for 21 days would be 100 minus 23 or 77 per cent.

By the time a month had passed, possibly three more cows would have returned so that the C.R. for one month would be 74 per cent. At the end of six weeks or two months, the C.R. may have dropped to 68 per cent.

As a rough guide, I would say that the normal C.R. would be somewhere around the following figures.—

One month after service—74 to 75 per cent. holding.
Two months after service—65 to 70 per cent. holding.
Three months after service—65 per cent. holding.

Broadly speaking therefore, about three-quarters of the herd should not show any signs of returning one month after the first service.

DON'T WASTE TIME

With these facts in your mind it should not be necessary to wait until cows have returned twice or more before deciding that you have an infertility problem.

It should not be necessary to wait until all the cows in the herd have been mated either. The first half of the herd to receive service will give you a reasonably good indication.

Take the 27-cow herd listed here. Between July 26 and August 2, the cows numbered 1 to 12 inclusive were mated.
By August 29 we know that all but three—Lulu, Strawberry and Ett—have returned to service. Three out of 12—one-quarter or 25 per cent, of the 12—have held to the service so our conception rate to the first service is well below normal, and it would be a wise move to call in veterinary assistance without delay.

By August 29 also we would know that Bella (August 27), Brownie (August 13), Crumple (August 26), and Thelma (August 29), had also failed to hold to the first service, thus confirming our diagnosis of an infertility problem.

**KEEP RECORDS**

By keeping a simple record of service dates as indicated it is an easy matter to check up on the C.R. of the herd.

Remember that about three-quarters of the herd should normally hold to the first service. If your figures are substantially below this, lose no time in obtaining expert advice.

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Pour the ARZEEN mixture—about 1 quart of solution per tree of 12 in. diameter is sufficient—into the frill, right around the tree.

**IMPORTANT**

1. Ensure the frill is level and as near to the ground as possible.
2. Apply the mixture with a utensil having a spout—i.e., an unwanted teapot.
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