



Deckerville Veterinary Clinic, P.C.

April 1, 2008

Thanks to everyone who attended the dairy producer meeting “The ABC’s of Pure breeding and Crossbreeding” presented by Dr. Leslie Hansen University of Minnesota. We had a very good turnout and informative discussion with Dr. Hansen. I have included a summary of the meeting for those unable to attend. Copies of the presentation are recommended as they go into greater detail on the types of breeds recommended and the advantages of certain cross breeds. Please call ahead and Carrie can have a copy ready for you.

- Fertility and health of Holstein cows is declining in most places in the world.
- More Holstein cows die on farms than previously.
- Fewer lactations by each Holstein cow.
- Selection for “sharpness” in addition to milk production has reduced fertility and survival.
- Cows that are more moderate in size have greater survival.
- “Smaller and rounder” cows are more functional than “taller and sharper” cows.
- Inbreeding is increasing steadily in the global Holstein breed to the point of being alarming.
- Production of some crossbreds is very similar to production of pure Holsteins.
- Crossbreds have advantages over pure Holsteins for calving ease, stillbirth, cow fertility and survival.
- Preliminary results suggest little, if any, loss of production for 3-breed versus 2-breed crossbreds.
- Use of only 2 breeds for crossbreeding provides an inadequate level of heterosis.
- 3-breed rotational crossbreeding provides the optimal level of heterosis.

Thanks also to Darrin Siemen, John VerHaar and Dave Varosi for their insight on the producer panel.

Think spring and have a safe planting season.

Battle of the Back Order

Items missing from your drop ship? It seems we have been blessed with a rash of backorders. Long Acting Penicillin, Ova Cyst 18ds, Alpha 7 10ds, Magnalax bolus, Cefa Dri (Tomorrow) are all on backorder. Prostatamate in the 18ds & Polyflex have been intermittently available. There are no “available” dates at this time.



You may have been hearing a new voice on the phone the past month. We would like to welcome Patty Hornby to our staff at Deckerville. Patty has taken over our in house inventory. Patty and her husband Bob live in the Deckerville area. They have two children, Megan resides in New York and Sean is a senior at Deckerville High School.