Epidemiology of synchronization programs for breeding management in US dairy herds

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INTRODUCTION

Synchrograms programs such as Ovsynch are commonly used to manage reproduction in dairy herds is US and worldwide. Because the type of breeding program (AI to estrus, Ovsynch, etc) is not always recorded in farms, there are very few reports describing the frequency of TAI at state/country level. The problem of standardization of breeding codes associated to an AI event will unlikely be solved in short-mid term, even for main herd-management softwares available. However, evaluating the distribution of inseminations throughout the days of the week might represent a valuable tool to estimate the use of synchronization programs across US dairy herds.

OBJECTIVES AND HYPOTHESIS

Our main objective was to estimate the use of synchronization programs in US dairy herds. The hypothesis was that herds located in the Midwest use synchronization programs more frequently than in other areas of US.

RESULTS

Out of all SAI inseminations, 78% happened on Thursdays and Fridays. But were evenly distributed throughout the week for EAI.

Use of SAI grew around 5% in the last 5 years.

Across US dairy herds, 29.9% of the AIs were SAI, but with great variation throughout states.

There were no significant differences in conception results between SAI (32.6%) and EAI (33.4%).

Conception results were similar between SAI and EAI.

CONCLUSIONS

Collectively, no significant differences in conception results were observed between SAI and EAI.

Herd size and type of AI (SAI or EAI) and month of insemination for 1st postpartum AIs.

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Use of SAI or EAI by herd size and at 1st postpartum AI in WI herds was available for further analysis.

Dataset included all DHIA recorded AIs in 2010 for WI-Holstein herds with > 100 lactating cows.

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