Assessing the Economic Value of a Cow, the Value of a New Pregnancy, and the Cost of a Pregnancy Loss

- Knowing the cow value is crucial for optimal dairy farm decision-making

- The value of a cow decreases when the cow:
  - Remains non-pregnant through lactation
  - Suffers an abortion
  - Gets older in successive lactations
  - Gets sick or injured
  - Is expected to produce less than the other cows in the herd

- The value of a cow increases when the cow:
  - Becomes pregnant
  - Is expected to produce more than the other cows in the herd
  - Remains healthy

- The most important factors in determining the economic value of a cow is the expectancy of the future performance of the evaluated cow and the potential replacement.

- Herd factors such as reproductive performance or turnover ratio have only limited impact on the relative economic value of a dairy cow

- Economic factors such as milk price or feed costs have also only limited impact on the relative economic value of a dairy cow.

- The study developed into an online user-friendly decision support tool available at the UW Dairy Management Website