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Abstract

Fourteen registered Hereford cows in the Kansas State University purebred teaching herd were mated artificially to the Simmental bull Capitaine #1236 in November and December, 1968. The 23 ampules of semen available were used on the first 23 Hereford cows to show estrus following November 20, 1968. Of cows inseminated, six calved as two-year olds, two as three-year olds, one at four years, two at five years, one at eight, and two at ten years of age. The two that calved at five years of age were sold prior to calving. Both calved unassisted but one calf was dead at birth. Only three of the remaining 12 cows calved unassisted. Some of those assisted might have calved unassisted. Early results indicated assistance was good management, as soon as it appeared to be needed.

Keywords

Cattlemen's Day, 1970; Report of progress (Kansas State University. Agricultural Experiment Station); 536; Beef; Simmental; Hereford; Artificial insemination

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Using Simmental Bulls on Hereford Cows

Miles McKee, Robert R. Schalles and Keith O. Zoellner

Fourteen registered Hereford cows in the Kansas State University purebred teaching herd were mated artificially to the Simmental bull Capitaine #1236 in November and December, 1968. The 23 ampules of semen available were used on the first 23 Hereford cows to show estrus following November 20, 1968. Of cows inseminated, six calved as two-year olds, two as three-year olds, one at four years, two at five years, one at eight, and two at ten years of age. The two that calved at five years of age were sold prior to calving. Both calved unassisted but one calf was dead at birth. Only three of the remaining 12 cows calved unassisted. Some of those assisted might have calved unassisted. Early results indicated assistance was good management, as soon as it appeared to be needed.

Nine of the fourteen calves dropped would be considered representative of a normal range in Hereford color patterns and shade of red except for considerable white on the legs. Two would be considered red necks. Five had extra patches of white on their bodies.

Five of the fourteen calves were born dead or died shortly after birth. Three had fetal heart beats at birth and one breathed for about 15 minutes. One cow became partially paralyzed during calving. Another cow developed peritonitis and died 36 hours after delivering a dead calf.

Eight of the Simmental calves, five heifers and three bulls, have been grown at the University. Their mothers were wintered on dry bluestem pasture with supplemental protein cubes and alfalfa hay. The calves have not received creep feed. They were weighed March 7, 1970, after being held all day off feed and water.

The calves will be weaned about May 15. The heifers will be grown and developed with the purebred heifers at the University. Performance data, yearling weights, and 18-month weights will be collected. The heifers will be bred and kept in the University herd for further studies. The bulls will go on a 140-day post-weaning gain test for performance data. We plan to use the bulls in a breeding experiment to study use of crossbred bulls.

Information on the twelve cows that calved at the University is summarized in table 19.

All calves were sired by one bull. The two year old heifers inseminated were small, not well grown. Reports from other Simmental x Hereford crossbreeding programs indicate that sire and size of dam influence ease of calving.

Table 19. Data for twelve Simmental-Hereford cross calves dropped at
Kansas State University, fall, 1969

| Cow age (years) | Length of gestation (days) | Calving date | Sex of calf | Birth weight (lbs.) | Weight 3-7-70 (lbs.) | Wt./day of age | Color pattern | Remarks |
|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 2 | 286 | 9/3 | F | 72 | --- | ---- | Normal Hereford | Pulled, dead at birth |
| 2 | 284 | 9/8 | F | 70 | 180 | 1.083 | Normal Hereford | Pulled, difficult |
| 2 | 288 | 9/9 | M | 86 | --- | ---- | White stripe down left heart girth | Pulled, heart beat, never breathed |
| 2 | 292 | 9/10 | M | 88 | --- | ---- | Normal Hereford | Pulled, lived 15 minutes |
| 10 | 290 | 9/11 | F | 78 | 335 | 1.893 | Normal Hereford | Born unassisted |
| 4 | 286 | 9/12 | M | 70 | 380 | 2.159 | Body spotted with white | Pulled, easy |
| 29 3 | 291 | 9/12 | M | 90 | 315 | 1.790 | White stripe down body | Pulled, difficult |
| 3 | 287 | 9/13 | M | 84 | 295 | 1.686 | White stripe down body | Pulled |
| 2 | 295 | 9/15 | M | 83 | --- | ---- | Normal Hereford | Pulled, difficult heart beat, no breath |
| 8 | 282 | 9/15 | F | 73 | 300 | 1.734 | Normal Hereford | Born unassisted |
| 2 | 290 | 9/16 | F | 85 | 250 | 1.453 | Normal Hereford | Born unassisted |
| 10 | 284 | 9/21 | F | 87 | 390 | 2.335 | Normal Hereford | Pulled |
| Average (all) | 287.9 | | | 80.5 | 305.625 | 1.767 | | |
| Average (females) | 286.0 | | | 77.5 | 291.0 | 1.700 | | |
| Average (males) | 289.8 | | | 83.5 | 330.0 | 1.878 | | |