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Transcription of Why synch and AI, episode 26

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BEGIN TRANSCRIPTION

00;00;16;09 - 00;00;45;10
Unknown
Welcome to Pasture to Profit. My name is Scott Stinnett. I'm CSU extension specialist here in Kit Carson County, located in the Burlington, Colorado office. Again today is Travis Taylor, extension specialist for the Golden Plains area out of the Yuma County office. Travis, it's almost breeding time and there's some things out there I think producers can do to help themselves make a little more money, especially in the current market situation.

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Unknown
Yeah. Scott. So I think there's different technologies that we can use, and usually we try to find those technologies to help us. And estrus synchronization can be one of those technologies that we can utilize to try to increase profit and maybe even decrease labor in some of the situations as we go forward. So we have a proven ways that we are able to sync cattle these days from our basic MJ, followed by prostaglandin shot to bring cattle into heat, which is kind of a typical program that we would use in confined heifers where we are feeding them and MGA we're making sure it gets into them and we're synchronizing them, or we now have cervical

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implants called seeders that we can use a seven day deal to really help us sync those mama cows that are out there and lactating in a seven day period. So I think the big question, and you and I had discussed this before we got on air, was, how does a commercial guy utilize some of this? Or why would a commercial guy utilize some of this?

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The why, I think, becomes evident when you and I started running some of the numbers. We are trying to move these cattle into a tighter window, making a more uniform calf crop. And I think when we look at that, if you just want to adjust for a 550 pound calf at 205 days of age, that calf, if you subtract his birth weight, that calf is gaining somewhere between 2 and 2.25 pounds a day for that 205 days.

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So every day we move them forward is a day that we have extra weight that we're going to sell in a commercial operation. Running the numbers. You know, most of our producers like to have a 60 day calving or less. So calving is based on estrus cycles which are 21 days. So on 21 days for every 2 pounds that you gain in those 21 days, we've gained 41 pounds at a market rate on the end.

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Right now, it's still around $3 per pound for those upper five and six weight calves. For every cycle that you get a heifer to breed earlier and produce you a calf, that's going to be a gain of $125 come sale time in the fall. Absolutely, Scott. I mean that that starts to to make a huge difference. And I think it also, if we have more calves in the front end of our breeding season, we can also choose to market those at a little different timing so we can if we do run short of grass or we do have an issue and we need to go down earlier, we still have heavier calves.

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We still have a more uniform set of calves. Because if we think that with ester synchronization, we think that we have to have some additional bull power, those kind of things, if we're going to breed naturally, we do need that. However, we're going to have a large group synchronized in a shorter time period, and we're going to then have maybe a little lull in there as we remain.

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Those that didn't get bred should be cycling back and another group of cattle. So we're really consolidating maybe 75 if we're really good, 80% of our calves into a 30 day window and really making a very uniform product that we can supply to the next person in the chain. Right. Because number one, whether you're going to the sale barn or whether you're contracting out to a buyer or doing video auction with calves, they want uniform groups.

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And that's really what we're after. And so if you can really tighten those groups up, you know, even if you have two groups in that 30 day window that are going to be very similar within 15 to 20 pounds in range of different weight, we're really going to make some buyers really like us. So how do we do that?

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What's the what is the typical or the probably the easiest protocol you would suggest for a commercial producer who wants to try syncing this year to get those tighter calving windows? So let's talk a little bit about my experience. So I synchronize my cows personally and do a a fixed

time AI. I get some benefit from that. So I use a seven day Cedar protocol where I put a cedar in, give that cow a shot of, in my case, Esther May, to help clear all the follicles.

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I come back and pull that cedar on day seven and give them a shot across the land in which, obviously it's a follicle and starts bringing them into heat. And then I breed on a fixed time after that. That seems to work very good for me, because in my group of cows, I have 55 to 60% of those happen over about a seven day period.

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Then I have a little bit of a lull, and then I have the remainder of about 30% of those, 25 to 30% of those Cavin that next period. So I'm getting 80 to 85% of my calves on the ground in less than 28 days. And so if you're the commercial producer and you've never done this before, we're talking having to gather and handle cattle just twice and you're still turning them out with the bull, but you've got everybody that should be when they're turned out within 2 or 3 days, within 48 to 72 hours, they're probably going to come into heat.

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Unknown
The bulls are going to be really busy. And then another, let's say 14, because we do disrupt a few of them when we bring them into this, that they were going to come into heat anyway. And when we do the the synchronization programs, then we do kind of mess them up and take them on to a different cycle.

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So again, their cycle will start again, anywhere from probably 12 to 14 days later, up to 21 full days later. For those who didn't breed the first time. Yeah, I refer to those as those that come back on what we call a short cycle, because we just timed everything perfectly in the hormonal system, in the cow to cause her to just be where she was, just out of that sink.

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And you'll do that to I'm going to say 10 to 12% of your cows when you do that. So you'll have that. You'll have a small group and that lull period at about 10 to 12 days. And then you'll have that next heat cycle of all those that did sink, but maybe didn't actually get fertilized and are not pregnant off that first heat.

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Right? So let's once again, let's jump back to dollars and cents. So you're going to do this this spring here pretty quick with your own herd. So you already know some of the prices. And so what's the we've got $1.25 or $125. Excuse me that we may gain for every cycle that we're ahead.

What's the cost of synchronizing per head with all these injections and seeders.

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So for me that cost is about if if we're just doing the seven days and breeding with the bull, it's about 22 bucks a head. Okay. When I time a I give a third shot and it cost me up to 25. So it's about 22 bucks a head that we're getting. If we can get those calves group to get that $100 that you're talking about coming in on that cycle.

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Unknown
Right? I would like to say that there's some research that is being done that is a little more cost effective. And it's one time through the shoot, and that is turning bulls out for about five days with your cows and then coming in, and you can give every cow a shot of a price to land in at five days, without risk of aborting those that are already bread.

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And it will stimulate the others to cycle. And it's a very low cost, maybe 4 or $5 ahead to move those other cows up into the breeding pattern. So it's some new research that's coming out. I would have you call in, visit with us about how that works and why that's working, and maybe take a look at it, because if you're running those cows through on day five or something, after you turn them out and we're putting some fly tags in, or maybe we're giving a shot of a multi min or some kind of injectable mineral into them at that same time.

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An extra 2 to 3 bucks at that time could move your cowherd into a tighter sync pattern if you would. So producers need to, number one, do their research, see what may work for them. A lot of our reproductive supply and semen sales companies have a lot of different protocols that are out there. Visit with your veterinarian or your local semen supply person who can tell you what the cost are going to be for these different pharmaceuticals we're going to need.

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But yeah, right now with the market, there's a pretty good advantage of trying this this year, whether you're going to run them once through the shoot, twice through the shoot. But do your research now along with that, if the commercial producer, because of the price of bulls right now, we use that rule of thumb of a good bull is worth the value of five steer calves at market.

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Unknown
And with the price of steer calves now six weights at $3 $1,800 a head, you know, we're talking 9 to $10,000 would be that price for a bull. And I know some folks have gone ahead and gone with that, and others have

kind of cringed and couldn't quite pull that trigger. Might be paying 55 to 75, maybe $8,000.

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Unknown
Bull. But let's go with that 9 to $10,000 range for a possible bull. Let's do a comparison. Dollars to cents on going ahead if we're going to come in and sync doing AI work. Talk a little bit about the cost of AI versus that 9 to $10 bull you're going to turn out. Yeah. So you're looking at that bull.

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And we're going to use that bull maybe over four seasons to breed anywhere from 25 the first year to maybe 40 the last year. So I'm going to use a number of 30, get about 120 calves out of that bull over four seasons. So you look at that cost, and if you run down through that, that gets to be about $75 a calf.

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Now, I understand there is some salvage value in those bulls, but we don't know what that value is going to be in four years. There's also some risk of that bull having an injury, either during breeding season or in the off season. When we're just storing him with some other bulls. And there's also what's that feed cost in there?

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So if you kind of work that out at the price it is now, it's costing you about 75 bucks a calf to breed with the bull. Now, we've talked about $25 to sink a cow. You can use some proven AI sires that have high levels of accuracy and maybe introduce some different bloodlines into your operation. At the same time that are upper in genetics.

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Unknown
And if you're using older proven bulls, that might be anywhere from 20 to $30 for that semen. So we get $55 in it and then anywhere from 5 to 10. So $65 to a a cow is kind of what you figure, unless you're going to jump out and use some elite genetic bull out there. But for our commercial guys, we're going to want to use those bulls with high accuracy that are proven sires.

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And you know what? You're going to get, on the back end, particularly if you're using a terminal type situation or you want to guarantee yourself some carvings, we're going to use those high accuracy sires. So if you balance those two, Scott, you're the econ guy. Yeah. $75 to use a bull and still have risk that he's going to get hurt.

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$65 to AI, to some top genetics in the line. I can see why more and more of our commercial cattle guys that are in it for the long haul are utilizing some of these technological advances in sync and AI to improve their herds. And let's talk about, you know, you talked about an improved genetics or more elite genetics that you can get Ahold of through AI.

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If that constitutes an extra 10 to 25 pounds at sale time, at $3 a pound, now you've made 30 to 45 extra more dollars, plus tighten them up at 125. You've you've made a pretty significant advance in your income by taking on some technologies that, in this current market right now, are very cost effective to try. Correct. And we also have some high accuracy.

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Unknown
If you're one of those guys that's thinking you want to go beyond and capture some of the carcass merit or sell into a specific program, you have some proven sires out there to go with it. Now, I'm not going to tell you that you get everyone bred. In my situation, the best I've ever done is 75 on a sink, and the worst that I've been is 53, depending on the year.

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Unknown
But still it has reduced the amount of bulls that I have to carry and stock, as clean up bulls. And it's giving me the ability to look at some more untouchable genetics that I couldn't possibly afford in my smaller program. Right. And some of the other things we maybe a producer might be a little hesitant because of facilities, but if you want to these semen sales companies, a lot of them also offer breeding services.

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And they bring in their own panels, their own little portable breeding sheds, and can sink and can breed for you for the cost. But again, current market that might be worth looking into. And if it works for you, then think about improving your own facilities so that you can do it in the future. But you don't have to do it all right now.

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There are ways to I hate to say the word experiment, but there's ways to try something new and see this is the year to the value. Could come back to you very easily. Yeah. The other thing I would tell you is, from my experience, just on my little operation, I even think some of those later cabin cows and even if you've got your front end carving cows and you got them out with bulls, those later cabin cows, if we're, say, stretched out and we're calving those cows in the last 20 days of our 60 day window, if we can sink those and move those up, those cows up 20 days, that's a significant advantage to

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us on that end. So you might want to try it and just injure calving season a little earlier next year, get a little more sleep at night, and also put some dollars back into your pocketbook for a little bit of expense. Well, some great things that we've discussed here today, Travis. So thanks to everybody that's listening out there.

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Once again, Scott Stinnett, I'm here in the Kit Carson County office in Burlington, Colorado. You can reach me at (719)346-5571. And Travis, yeah, I'm in the Yuma County Extension office in Wray, Colorado at (970)332-4151. And if you want to discuss these, it's something that we have been doing on our ranch for a number of years. And we can talk through some of the things that you need to have.

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So reach out and call us. Again. Thanks to everyone for listening to Pasture to Profit. We hope that you will listen next time.

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