



Ceva contributes to optimising dairy cow performance to fulfill increasing global demand for milk.

2nd reprodAction* Cattle Symposium gathers 300 specialists in Nice to improve the current levels of reproductive management.

Libourne 26th March 2014: World milk production will pass the level of 1,000 million tonnes (mt.) in 2023 (2012: 780 mt.) up by 29% or 20 mt. (2.3%) per annum*



According to Rabobank, a leading Food and Agribusiness bank "Developing regions will continue to be supply constrained and require supply growth from those regions capable of producing surpluses". This means continuing to produce in economies where land and input costs are at a premium, all of which will put more pressure on producers to increase productivity per cow. Optimising the reproductive management is one of the major factors influencing the efficiency of dairy production.

Against this background, Ceva held the second reprodAction (Reproductive Management in Action) Cattle Symposium in Nice, France.

300 attendees from 30 countries met to be updated on the latest research in cattle reproduction management. **6 worldwide experts** shared their knowledge with topics selected on the basis of their practical interest for field specialised veterinarians in cattle reproduction. A brief summary of the content follows to the title and speakers details:

- Implementing strategies to reduce heat stress in dairy herds.
Dr. Michelle Rhoads, Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, USA

Dr. Rhoads highlighted the importance of heat stress in reproduction and milk production in dairy cattle. Different aspects to be considered were cooling lactating and dry cows, feeding strategies, epigenetics, sire selection and the use of embryo

transfer technologies to minimize the impact of heat stress.

- Nourishing cows for optimal reproductive performance
Dr. Alex Bach, Spain

Dr. Bach focused on facts & myths surrounding nutrition and reproduction. New strategies were proposed to optimize efficiency in dairy cattle by



- improving the management of the herd and the pre and post calving nutrition.
- Q fever impact on reproductive parameters Dr. Raphael Guatteo, France

Besides the important zoonotic implications of Q fever, Dr Guatteo showed the impact of the disease on reproductive parameters and how a proper vaccination program may reduce the rate of abortions, improve fertility parameters and reduce the shedding at cow and herd level.

- Genomics and sexed semen in dairy cattle Dr. Claire Ponsart, UNCEIA, France Dr. Ponsart explained the current use of genomics technology in cattle and gave insights into how this will impact the work of practitioners. The use of genomics, sexed semen together with Embryo Transfer and In vitro Fertilization techniques will boost genetic improvement in cattle herds.
- Management strategies for rearing dairy heifers successfully
Dr. Alex Bach, IRTA, Spain Under optimal breeding programs, Dr. Bach said, newborn calves are the animals, within a herd, that have the greatest potential for profitability and the greatest genetic potential because they give birth to cows that produce more milk, have greater longevity and may have better reproductive ability.

His presentation showed that raising heifers is a key activity to ensure the sustainability of dairy farms.

- Synchronisation management in dairy and beef cattle
Dr. Stephen Butler, Teagasc, Ireland

Dr. Butler pointed out the benefits of using synchronisation programs in pasture based systems both for dairy and beef cattle. The increased submission rate, shortening interval from calving to pregnancy with longer lactations and heavier weanings are important advantages. Heat detection efficiency and compliance should be considered when applying synchronisation programs.

- The role of progesterone in cattle reproduction
Dr. Alessio Valenza, Ceva Sante Animale, France Dr. Valenza showed the latest information around the physiology of infertility in dairy cattle related to low progesterone levels and explained the major issues of Ovsynch®-like protocols. The presentation gave the key elements of setting up an intravaginal progesterone device-based protocol to maximize the reproductive performance in a dairy herd.

This expert symposium for veterinarians reinforces the strategy of Ceva Santé Animale to become the worldwide leader in the management of cattle reproduction.

*reprodAction is Ceva's approach to reproductive management in ruminants. For further information about reprodAction please contact Pedro Rodriguez, Corporate Ruminant Product Manager (pedro.rodriguez@ceva.com) or your local representative.
*source IFCN (International Farm Comparison Network 2013)

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