Bohaty Farm Bulletin

June 2010

Bohaty's British Whites—
Quality You Can Count On!

We want to take time to thank all the people who attended our sale in April. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed visiting and checking out the cattle. What a great way to start out the season.

Just a reminder that we have cattle for sale all year long and love to show people our cattle whether they are buyers on not. As you all know British Whites are very pleasant with guests, and always need to come introduce themselves.

We have several bulls ready for service in your pasture, both yearlings and 2-year olds.

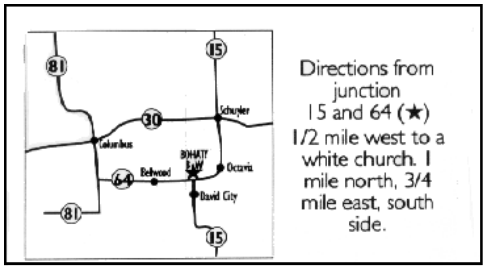
There are several breeding heifers for sale. We will begin the breeding season for these heifers in mid June.

All of our bred cows have now calved, but we will sell pairs if you are interested.

Be sure to check out our web site to see some of the animals we have for sale or call us for more information. For example, check out the pictures on the left. Videos can be sent if you want to see the cattle in motion.

B&B Bonzi 61U a 2-Year Old

B&B Mickey 30W Breeding Heifer



Directions from junction 15 and 64 (★) 1/2 mile west to a white church. 1 mile north, 3/4 mile east, south side.

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Factors Influencing Fertility in Synchronized Breeding Programs

By Amanda Nolz of the Tri-State Livestock News

Excerpts from the Feb 6, 2010 Tri-State Livestock News

The most important job of any female on a beef cattle operation is to reproduce. Fertility is the single factor that determines whether a female will stay on the ranch or head to the sale barn. There are several key factors that determine reproductive performance in females, and George Perry, PH.D. discussed them at the Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle Workshop at the 2010 Cattle Industry Annual Convention in San Antonio, TX on 1/29/10. Perry shared some of the research studies conducted at SD State University (UDSU). He indicates several key considerations for producers to keep in mind when planning synchronized breeding programs, wither by artificial insemination or natural service.

Equation of reproduction

According to Perry, there is an equation that influences fertility in females. This 4-part equation includes: 1. animals detected in estrus & inseminated; 2. insemination efficiency; 3. fertility level of the herd; & 4. semen fertility level. When considering these 4 elements, Perry noted that all are equally important in getting females bred.

"When thinking about this equation, if you do everything perfectly, you will get 100% of your cows bred," said Perry, who has been working at SDSU since August of 2003. "What happens if you have a 70% pass on each section of the equation? The result is you only get 24% of animals pregnant. What's interesting about reproduction is you can do everything perfect, but if you mess up in 1 area, you will do no better than your lowest level. The lowest you do in1 area is the best you will do."

Perry noted that to get animals pregnant, first you must successfully detect them in estrus. He mentioned some key differences among heat detection methods & said the casual method (heat detecting 30 minutes morning and night) easily misses many females in estrus.

"If a cow only shows signs of estrus for 6-7 hours during the day, you may never see that cow come into heat. There are all kinds of aid to help detect estrus, such as the heat watch system , tail paints, patches or a penile deviated bull."

Perry stressed the importance of knowing the correct timing of estrus. He noted that some animals come into heat without showing any signs, while other times, heifers are seen standing but aren't actually in heat.

"It can be difficult to correctly detect cows in estrus," admitted Perry. "If we inseminate too early, most of the semen will die before ovulation and if we are too late the semen doesn't have time to capacitate before ovulation."

Natural service & artificial insemination

While there are several challenges that producers are presented with when trying to artificially inseminate cows following a synchronized breeding program, the same holds true for breeding by natural service.

Bull libido, or the sex drive and willingness of the bull, is something producers need to think about," recommended Perry. "Bull libido is a highly heritable trait, & there are scientific ways to predict this trait. However, a practical way to measure this is to go out & watch the bulls. What are they interested in doing? Do they go straight to the feed bunk, or do they go after the cows?"

Perry noted that 3.6% of bulls that pass a breeding soundness exam (BSE) were physically unable to service cows. He told producers they need to really check on these things to make sure they are really seeing the bull ride the cow, not just another female in the group.

"So, how many cows should a bull be placed with?: asked Perry. "This depends on the bull, of course. Yearlings have a lower serving capacity than older bulls. Synchronization programs also place greater pressure on bulls & lowers serving capacity. Multiple sires also decrease serving capacity since the bulls fight & breed the same cow in heat, often taking away their ability to breed another cow that same day."

Perry answered the question, what does estrus synchronization do to fertility? He said that he doesn't see any negative effects of doing this with cattle, & the biggest benefit is getting a number of cows bred early. However, it takes time, patience and possibly a few extra bulls to properly influence fertility in synchronized breeding programs.

In closing, Perry stated that in natural service versus artificial insemination, there was no difference detected in pregnancy rates. Herd level fertility is influenced by cycling status, compliance with protocols, body condition, disease, embryonic mortality, semen fertility, insemination efficiency and environmental or management stress.

B&B Etta Mae 115U