

# WHAT THE REPROCONNECTIONS PROGRAM IS ALL ABOUT

second person when required to make sure that the semen dose will be entirely placed in the right area in the uterus, at the right time after loading A.I. gun, and in a safe manner for both technician and cow.

Preliminary studies have shown that even people fairly experienced in the A.I. technique may not place the semen in the uterine body as frequently as 20 to 25% of the attempted uterine body depositions (Peters et al., 1984). In fact, Peters et al. 1984, working with uterine tracts, described that only 39% of the A.I. gun placements were done in the body of the uterus and that nearly 20% of the liquid radiopaque inseminate was actually misplaced into the cervix, regardless of the straw volume (0.5 or 0.25 ml straws) and size of the uterine structure – probably because the A.I. gun was being pulled back during radiopaque liquid delivery in the uterus.

These authors also reported a fairly large variation in accuracy of semen placement by both herdsman and professional A.I. technicians. Thus, it is logical to conclude that if you need to breed a cow 'hanging onto her back and trying to stop her from running lose at the same time,' that your odds of placing the semen in the correct uterine site will be lower and overall the quality of the A.I. will be compromised.

In conclusion, the person responsible for A.I. on the farm must avoid wrong semen placement in the uterine tract and delays in the breeding time (no more than 10 minutes) when multiple A.I. guns are assembled particularly in dairies with inadequate cow constrain facilities. Also, be aware that the cow must be well positioned (controlled) during A.I. procedures for achieving highest fertility results.

#### REFERENCES:

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- Lee, C. N., T. Z. Huang, and A. B. Sagayaga. 1997. Conception rates in dairy cattle are affected by the number of semen straws thawed for breeding. *J. Dairy. Sci.* 80:151.
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Developing your herd's reproductive program is an important part of your dairy's operation! But it can be stressful to do by yourself. That's why Accelerated Genetics is here to help. Get the individual attention you and your herd deserve through the Accelerated Genetics ReproConnections Program. And ACCELERATE your herd!

#### WHAT IS THE REPROCONNECTIONS PROGRAM?

The ReproConnections program is Accelerated Genetics reproduction support program that was developed with the goal of providing quality support service and consulting for customers and potential new customers. Reproduction analysis is more than just looking at a bredsum command in your computer. This is a multidisciplinary task that requires attention to details in many areas, and that's exactly what ReproConnections can do for you!

#### WHAT IS INVOLVED?

The ReproConnections program will involve the following:

- Preliminary evaluation of computer records prior to on-farm visit, if possible.
- Complete on-farm reproduction evaluation and further data collection.
- The ReproConnections Team member will work side by side with each farm's employees and consultant team and conduct a walk-through of the facilities, pens, review management practices.
- If on-farm training is needed, it can and will be provided.
- Samples will be collected if further evaluation is needed.
- If further industry professionals are needed to assist with improving a herd's reproduction program, the ReproConnections Team will help get them involved.
- An Action Plan will be provided to each herd, which will contain a complete summary of the visit, all findings and reproduction program recommendations.
- Follow up visits will be scheduled as needed for more assistance.

#### WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE REPROCONNECTIONS PROGRAM?

The rationale of the program is to assist producers in being proactive rather than reactive. Producers shouldn't wait until a fertility fire starts. Rather, they should do regular reviews on reproduction programs trying to detect early situations before they end up in fertility outbreaks. The goal of ReproConnections is not to create a problem if it doesn't exist. If after the evaluation the program is acceptable, there will be no changes suggested. In either case, the producer will receive a written report with evaluation findings and general recommendations.

For more information about the resources available through ReproConnections go to the Accelerated Genetics website at: [www.accelgen.com](http://www.accelgen.com).

*The power packed ReproConnections Team at Accelerated Genetics is led by: Humberto Rivera, M.S., Reproductive Specialist and Dr. Alex Souza, Ph.D., Reproduction Field Specialist. Both have many years of practical experience in the field of dairy cattle reproduction and in consulting. Further, Humberto and Alex have published numerous articles in scientific and popular press publications.*



HUMBERTO RIVERA

*Humberto holds a Master of Science degree in Dairy Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a degree in Bovine Production from the University of Caldas, Colombia and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Caldas, Colombia.*



DR. ALEX SOUZA

*Alex has a Ph.D. in Animal Reproduction from the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, a Master of Science degree in Reproductive Physiology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the São Paulo State University, Brazil.*