



Earlier Pregnancy Diagnosis → Increased Profitability.

With margins tight and uncertain returns on beef cattle in the near future, it may be tempting to cut costs by not preg checking your cattle this fall. While this may seem like an easy way to cut costs it may end up costing you money in the long run. A well managed herd, using a limited breeding season with high pregnancy rates, will still often have 10% of the herd open at preg check time. Herds with a problem during the breeding season, such as disease outbreak or an injured bull, may have an even higher number of open cows.

Financial costs are making it very important to consider the number of pregnancies a farm maintains within the herd. With a 1,300 pound cow eating 30 pounds of hay per day, the carrying cost per cow for hay (\$75.00 per ton) during the winter is about \$1.25 per day. Hay alone will cost about \$225.00 to maintain an open animal from fall to spring. In addition to the cost of feeding these animals they require supplements, vitamins as well as your time and labor.

Pregnancy checking cows in the fall allows producers to cull open animals quickly and keep carrying costs as low as possible. With ultrasound we can check for pregnancy beginning at 28 days. Traditionally, cows are checked after the bull has been removed for 45 days, 28 days at minimum. During the pregnancy exam we will also be able to determine approximate age of the fetus, with the most accurate results given for fetus' age 28-120 days. This will help you determine the length of your calving season and give you an idea of when an individual animal should calve.

Please call Mondovi Veterinary Service if you have any questions about the services we provide for our beef clients.