

## **New Estrus-Synchronization Product Available for Dairy Heifers**

George Heersche, Jr.  
Extension Dairyman  
University of Kentucky

Another method of synchronizing estrus in dairy heifers is now available. This method utilizes a CIDR and Prostaglandin F2 alpha. The term CIDR is short for Controlled Intravaginal Releasing Device. The CIDR releases progesterone into the vagina at a controlled rate. Progesterone is “the pregnancy hormone” and keeps the heifer from coming into heat. The commercial name for the new product is EAZI-BREED CIDR Cattle Insert and it is sold by Pharmacia Animal Health. Prostaglandin F2 alpha is the hormone that causes the corpus luteum to stop producing progesterone and regress.

The new protocol consists of the EAZI-BREED CIDR being inserted into the vagina for seven days and an injection of Lutalyse (prostaglandin F2 alpha) on the day before the CIDR is removed.

So the protocol looks like this:

Day 0: Insert EAZI-BREED CIDR

Day 6: Inject Lutalyse

Day 7: Remove CIDR

If the heifer is in the stage of her estrous cycle where she would have been in heat during the seven day protocol, the progesterone absorbed by the vaginal epithelial cells will keep her out of heat until the CIDR is removed and she metabolizes the progesterone. These heifers show standing heat 24-36 hours after the CIDR is removed. If the heifer is in the stage of her cycle where she has a functioning corpus luteum during the protocol, the corpus luteum dies after the Lutalyse injection and the heifer comes into heat after she metabolizes the progesterone from her corpus luteum and the CIDR. These heifers will come into heat 36 to 48 hours or later after the CIDR is removed.

The expression of estrus and conception rates are normal. This protocol synchronizes estrus, but does not synchronize ovulation tight enough for timed insemination so heat detection is required. The EAZI-BREED CIDR will be an over-the-counter product, and will initially be marketed through AI organizations and veterinarians. The suggested retail price is \$8.00 to \$9.50. The applicator will sell for approximately \$8.70. More information is available at [www.cidr.com](http://www.cidr.com).

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