



diluted in INRA96 had a similar 60-day NRR to semen diluted in Caprogen and frozen-thawed semen. Given that it can be used directly off-the-shelf, INRA96 may be a suitable alternative to Caprogen for the storage of liquid bull semen.

PW1546 - Emergence day of synchronized follicular wave in ewes subjected to different doses of 17 β -estradiol given at beginning of the progesterone protocol

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This study was designed to evaluate the effect of different doses of 17 β -estradiol injection at the beginning of the progesterone (P4) protocol on follicular wave emergence in ewes. In a random day of the estrous cycle (D0), twenty-four Santa Ines ewes received a P4 device (CIDR[®]) and a injection of 17 β -estradiol (Sincrodiol[®], Ourofino, Brazil) in different doses (350 μ g, 500 μ g e 1000 μ g) for G-350E2, G-500E2 e G-1000E2, respectively (n=8 per group). The ultrasounds examinations were performed daily during the CIDR permanence (10 days) using MyLab 30Vet equipment (Esaote, Italy) connected to transretal linear transducer (frequency of 7.5 MHz). Follicular wave was defined as a follicle or a group of follicles 2 to 3 mm in diameter that grew to 4.5 mm in size before regression or ovulation. The day of wave emergence was regarded as the day on which the largest follicle of a wave was first detected at 2 or 3 mm (retrospective analysis). Data were analyzed by ANOVA with Tukey test (mean \pm SEM; p<0.05) using SAS software. All ewes had emergence of a new follicular wave after the protocols. There was difference (abp = 0.04) for follicular wave emergence day (3.00 \pm 0.32b, 4.00 \pm 0.45ab and 5.20 \pm 0.73a) for G-350E2, G-500E2 e G-1000E2, respectively. In conclusion, the 17 β -estradiol injection at the beginning of the progesterone (P4) protocol is able to synchronize the emergence of a new follicular wave, which occurred earlier in females treated with the lowest dose of the drug (ie. 350 μ g of the 17 β -estradiol). Financial support: CNPq and FAPESP.

PW1547 - Short-term protein supplementation during a 15 days prostaglandin-based protocol for timed AI improves reproductive performance of ewes

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Focus feeding in the late luteal phase previous a spontaneous oestrus results in a significant improvement of ovulation rate (OR) and prolificacy in sheep [1]. The aim of this experiment was to test if a 5 days nutritional treatment applied at the end of a 15 days -interval prostaglandin F2 (PG)-based protocol for timed artificial insemination (TAI) would improve the reproductive outcome of ewes. During the breeding season (April - June; "El Recuerdo" farm, Artigas Uruguay, 30 $^{\circ}$ S - 57 $^{\circ}$ W), 218 multiparous Merino ewes grazing native pastures (forage allowance of 6.8 kg of dry matter/100 kg live weight, 11.1% CP, 38.3% ADF, and water ad libitum) were selected. Ewes were allocated to two groups based on their body condition (3.2 \pm 0.2 points, score 1-5) and body weight (39.4 \pm 6.2 kg); Group 1, PG15 (n=109, Control): ewes synchronised with two PG