



Applied Research Management Topics at the Rayner Dairy Research and Teaching Facility

Gregory B. Penner

Associate Professor and Centennial Enhancement Chair in
Ruminant Nutritional Physiology

www.usask.ca

Setting the stage

- Projects generally use cows in early to mid lactation
 - Short-term in nature
- Difficult to fund and assign students to long-term research projects
- Opportunity to compliment existing research with applied research addressing practical challenges for dairy producers

Applied research goals

- Evaluate practical management strategies close to the adoption phase
 - Production, reproduction, health, economics
- Provide new and practical information to Saskatchewan Dairy Producers
- Optimize use of cattle at the Rayner Dairy Research and Teaching Facility

Example research projects: Calf rearing

Rearing strategies to maximize lifetime milk production

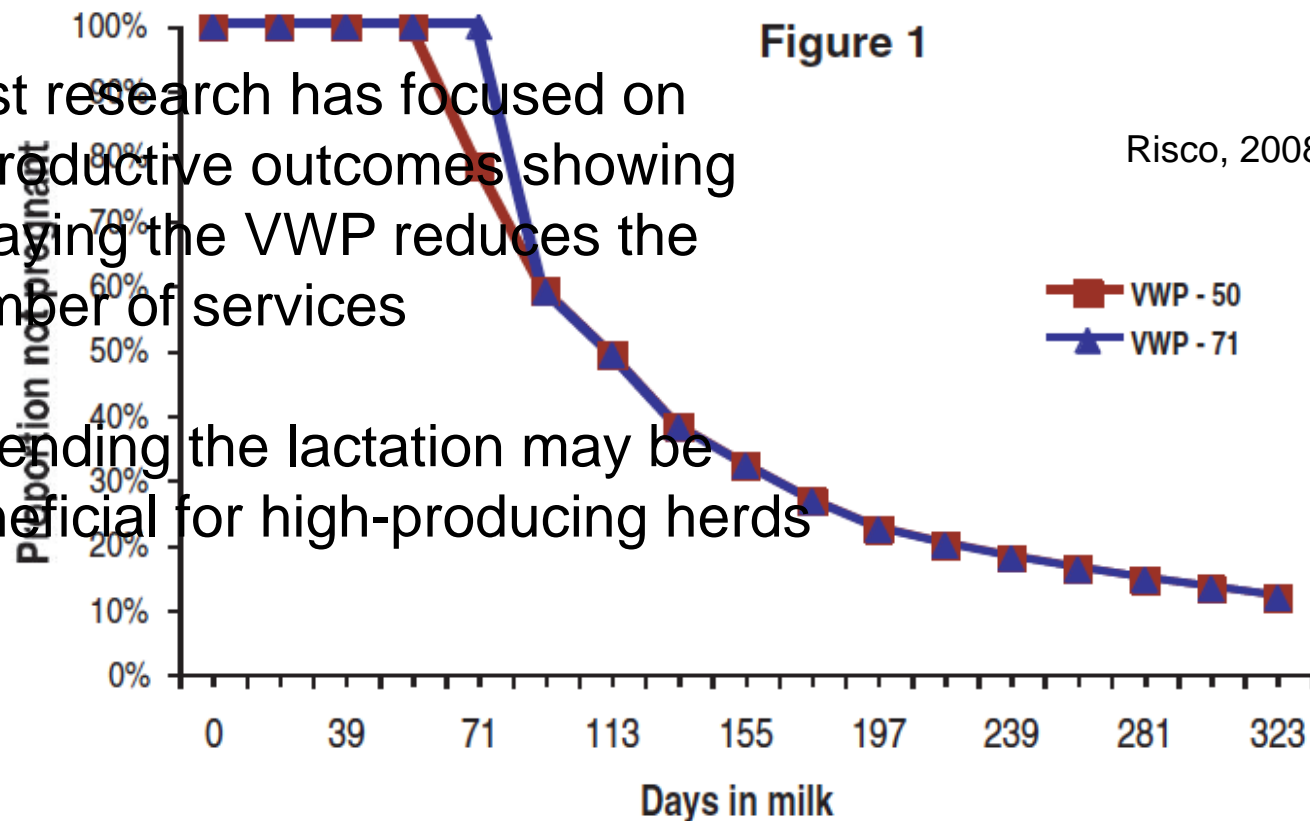
- Greater pre-weaning ADG increases 1st lactation milk yield (Soberon et al., 2012)
- High levels of milk feeding may induce gastric ulcers (Jasper and Weary, 2002)
- Social rearing programs improve cognitive development and stimulate starter intake (Costa et al., 2014)

Example research projects: Calf rearing

Objective: To determine whether rearing in isolation compared to rearing in pairs affects feed intake pre- and post-weaning and whether carry-over effects persist for health status and milk and milk component yield

Reproduction: Evaluating the length of the voluntary waiting period

- Past research has focused on reproductive outcomes showing delaying the VWP reduces the number of services
- Extending the lactation may be beneficial for high-producing herds



Reproduction: Evaluating the length of the voluntary waiting period

- Experimental approach
 - Identify cows with high peak milk yield and high persistency
 - 60 d VWP
 - 90 d VWP
 - Evaluate
 - Reproductive parameters
 - Lactation performance (current and subsequent)
 - Economic analysis

Opportunity for producer input

- Involvement of SaskMilk research advisory committee
- Direct communication with researchers and students

Comments and Questions

