Veterinary Science
Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant
Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Reproductive Non-Infectious Diseases

Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Objectives

- Recognize the economic importance of reproductive problems
- Describe infertility problems that affect the cow
- Describe infertility problems that affect the mare
- Describe infertility problems that affect the stallion
- Discuss the factors that cause dystocia
- Discuss the management of reproductive problems
Reproductive problems are common
- Recognize them
- Prevent
- Cull

Problems include
- Inability to breed
- Inability to conceive
- Inability to maintain pregnancy
Male problems
- Decreased libido
- Abnormal sperm production

Female problems
- Altered estrous cycle
- Abnormal egg production
Definitions

- Estrous – entire cycle
- Estrus – when in heat
- Anestrus – not in heat

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Estrous Cycle</th>
<th>Duration of Estrus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cattle</td>
<td>21d</td>
<td>15 h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pig</td>
<td>21 d</td>
<td>50 h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheep</td>
<td>17 d</td>
<td>30 h</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse</td>
<td>21 d</td>
<td>7 d</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Infertility Problems

- Infertility
  - Definition
    - A reduced ability or inability to produce offspring
      - Not able to breed
      - Not able to conceive
  - Male or female
Cow

- Cystic ovaries
- Reproductive tract adhesions
- Anestrus
- Hereditary reproductive defects
  - Freemartin
- Improper nutrition
- Reproductive tract infections
  - Metritis
Mare

- Seasonal breeders
- Improper nutrition
- Reproductive tract infections
  - Metritis
Bulls
- Poor semen quality
  - Poor nutrition
  - Testicular diseases
- Injury or infection of penis
- Lameness

Stallions
- Poor semen quality
  - Poor nutrition
  - Testicular diseases
Pregnancy Problems

- Abortion
  - Premature termination of pregnancy
- Causes
  - Infections
  - Nutritional deficiencies
  - Plant toxins
  - Chemical toxins
  - Drug toxins
- Early pregnancy loss
  - No sign
  - Body reabsorbs
- Late pregnancy loss
  - Expelled/dead fetus
Birth Problems

- Dystocia
  - Difficult parturition (birthing)

- Causes
  - Undersize of birth canal
  - Oversize of fetus
  - Improper position, posture, or presentation of fetus
  - Malnutrition weakness of dam
Management

- Key – careful observation

- Observations
  - Awareness of repeat breeders
  - Awareness of abortions
  - Awareness of birthing