Veterinary Science
Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant
Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Reproduction & Rectal Palpation in Cattle

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Objectives

- Describe the estrous cycle
- Describe breeding soundness examination of female animals
- Discuss breeding soundness examination of male animals
- Describe procedures for pregnancy diagnosis, including rectal palpation techniques
Definitions

- **Ovum**
  - An egg produced by the ovary

- **Sperm**
  - Male germ cell produced by the testes

- **Follicle**
  - Blister on the ovary that forms as the ovum prepares to burst out at ovulation

- **Semen**
  - Fluid produced by the male accessory sex glands

- **Corpus luteum**
  - A tissue body produced by the ovary from the remains of the ruptured follicle after ovulation

- **Ejaculate**
  - A mixture of sperm and semen, released during ejaculation
Reproductive Organs of the Bull

- Rectum
- Seminal Vesicles
- Ampulla
- Bladder
- Vas Deferens
- Sigmoid Flexure
- Scrotum
- Testis
- Gubernaculum
- Prepuce
- Caput Epididymis
- Cauda Epididymis

Prostate
Cowpers Gland
Retractor Penis Muscle
The parietal tunica vaginalis was cut at the abattoir.
Breeding Soundness Examination

- Cow/heifer
  - Rectal palpation or ultrasound
    - Ovaries
      - Activity
      - Follicles
      - Corpus lutea
    - Uterus
    - Cervix
Bull

- External palpation
  - Testes
    - Size
    - Temperature
    - Texture
  - Epididymis
- Rectal palpation or ultrasound
  - Accessory sex glands
Pregnancy Diagnosis in Cattle

- Rectal palpation or ultrasound
  - Embryo/fetus
    - Vesicle size
    - Uterine horn size
    - Fetus size
    - Fetal membranes
    - Cotyledons
    - Uterine artery
    - Bone
First Trimester
- 1 month – marble size
- 6 week – hen egg size
- 2 months – baseball size
- 3 months – softball size

Second Trimester
- 4 months – volleyball size
- 5 months – basketball size
- 6 months – fetus out of reach

Third Trimester
- 7-9 months – bony calf, increasing in size