The likelihood of removal from the herd was 64 and 52% lower for sows of parities 1 and 2, and 3–5 compared to sows of parity >5 (P < 0.05 for both). Sows farrowing in the second and third quarter of the year had higher likelihood of removal (P < 0.05 for both) from the herd than sows farrowing in the last quarter (odds ratios 1.088 and 1.341, respectively). Sows with no stillborn piglets were 12% less likely (P < 0.05) to be removed from the herd than those with stillborn piglets. Sows that did not need assistance in farrowing were 10% less likely (P < 0.5) to be removed than those requiring assistance for farrowing. Farrowing induction was found to be beneficial in that induced sows were 18% less likely (P < 0.05) to be removed than non-induced sows. The results indicated that farrowing interventions and other periparturient factors are important in deciding sow longevity.

Keywords: Sow longevity; Farrowing assistance; Induction; Parity; Stillborn

THE USE OF LEUKOCYTE ESTERASE REAGENT STRIPS FOR DIAGNOSIS OF SUBCLINICAL ENDOMETRITIS IN DAIRY COWS

N.R. Santos, H.B. Roman, R.O. Gilbert

College of Veterinary Medicine, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-6401, USA

Recent investigations have revealed that mild endometritis, both clinical and subclinical, is common in high producing dairy cows, and that it significantly impairs reproductive performance. In many cases, the diagnosis is not clinically evident and must be determined by endometrial cytology. Although neither complex nor costly, endometrial cytology lacks immediacy, and does require equipment and expertise. In this study we investigated the use of low volume uterine lavage and the use of a commercial diagnostic strip test for urinary neutrophils for diagnosis of mild endometritis.

Postpartum dairy cows from two herds (n = 112) were used in this study. Samples (n = 253) were taken from each cow on one to four occasions between 1 and 7 weeks postpartum. Samples obtained by lavage of the uterus with 20 ml of sterile saline were processed for cytological diagnosis [Gilbert, et al. Theriogenology 2005;64:1879–88]. A subjective inflammation score (of 0–3) was assigned and 200 cells were counted and identified as epithelial cells, small mononuclear cells (lymphocytes) large mononuclear cells (macrophages) and polymorphonuclear cells. The proportion of each cell type was calculated. Independently, each recovered sample was subjected to testing with a diagnostic test