



## "CIDR Eazi-Breed"

Dr. J.D. Bobb

Perhaps the title of the new product release is somewhat misleading, the fact is this product has been around for over 20 years, but now available in the United States. In the fall of 1989 Dr. Spronk and I traveled to New South Wales, Australia and learned how to collect and freeze ram semen and do artificial insemination in ewes. This product was readily available in Australia at that time. So now 20 years later it has finally become available in the States.

Pfizer has brought this product to the market in the United States in the last several months. CIDR's (pronounced seeders) is a progesterone product that is used to synchronize the ewe cycle and to introduce estrus in out of season breeding programs. Producers have had very limited access to CIDR's in the past and cost has been a limiting factor. Now that Pfizer has the product and made it available on the market to all producers, cost will go down, and availability will no longer be an issue.

In our experience over the years we have the best results by leaving the CIDR's in the ewe for 10-12 days which is longer than the normal lifespan on the corpus luteum. The package insert and Pfizer literature indicates the trial work they have done on a five day insertion period is adequate. This trial date was done much closer to the equator and on hair sheep. We are anxious to do some trials on ewes to see if we can determine if the five days is the right length of time. We have done many ewes using the 10-12 day insertion period in combination with the PG600. The PG600 is given when the CIDR's are removed and will help to stimulate follicle development.

The single largest factor to a successful breeding program has been the availability of a sufficient number of rams to get the ewes bred. If you plan on synchronizing a large flock of ewes you may need to stagger the removal times over several days to give an adequate ram to ewe ratio. If you plan on using them for an out of season program to produce fall lambs or early winter lambs, make sure to have your rams semen tested prior to starting the program. This is also good advice when breeding during the normal lambing season.

Over 90% of the sheep flocks in the United States have less than 100 ewes. Most of these shepherds have an off farm job and income. Using a product like the CIDR could help many of these shepherds plan their lambing period into a much more concise period of time. The possibility of taking a week off of work and lambing the flock may become a reality in the future, versus lambing over a 45-60 day period of time.

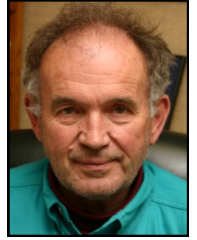
Using the product will require the purchase of an applicator, and some protective gloves. When inserting the CIDR into the ewes vaginal tract use some obstetrical lubricant with some antibacterial activity.

If you are interested in using this product, give us a call and we will be glad to answer your questions and get you started.

# Straight Talk

Dr. G.F. Kennedy

This time of year we field questions via telephone all day long. We also respond to email questions on a daily basis. We are truly the answer people. Your continued support of our catalog products makes this service possible and I believe we are the only ones in the business that do it. We try to advise you as to the correct procedures and products that are the most cost efficient for you in your sheep and goat programs. Thank you for your support.



Alternative feed sources may be used to lower feed costs. One of the new programs is to utilize soybean hulls and distiller grain by products to cheapen up rations. My limited take on it would be, "is it really worth it?" By totally replacing corn and hay with these products you may save several cents a day. The information I viewed still showed use of corn silage the most economical.

Corn silage is hard to use unless you have enough sheep to provide fresh silage daily. Spoilage is dangerous. Silage needs to be reduced and eventually eliminated in the last six weeks of pregnancy.

Soybean hulls are pelleted and provide a risk of choking.

Distiller by products contain high levels of sulfur and mold. Higher levels of sulfur may result in Polio. Mold, so far hasn't been a problem in this area. The fat content of these products is sometimes hard for the rumen to handle.

Another alternative feed would be grain screenings when available which substitutes well for corn. Corn screenings could have high mold content. Ruminates tolerate mold well.

So when you look at the whole picture of alternative feeds, corn and alfalfa hay are not our enemy. The use of alternative feeds may lessen costs but do not come without risks. Unless you are totally competent with what you are doing, moderation of alternative feed use may be the best alternative.

I would like to review what I believe to be the prudent use and application of what we know about processing lambs. I believe processing lambs while they are still in the lambing pen. We use elastrator bands for castration and tail docking. We inject 1cc of aqueous penicillin and 1cc CDT mixed together in a syringe when we process the lamb. We recommend a second, full dose C-D at wean followed by a third dose three weeks later. The third dose doesn't always happen. We have been on this program for ten years, it works. We do not vaccinate the ewes.

We have a lot of products we use for baby lamb survival. The baby lamb strength provides Vitamin E and energy. Quick start can be used for hypoglycemic lambs and starvation. We also have our dependable colostrum product, Nursemate for colostrum deprived lambs.

OVIShield is a new product this year that is a good source of antibodies and provides scour protection as well.

## Letter of "Thanks"

Just wanted you to know how much I appreciate your time spent improving products and services for sheep producers! We have a small flock of 40 ewes and have found the selection of sheep products in your catalog very complete and have consulted with your medical staff several times to answer health questions when our local vet was at a loss. It makes life with sheep so much easier having your clinic as a resource. Your newsletter is also really interesting and useful.

I particularly wanted to thank you for improving the lamb milk replacer. Lambs grow and stay healthier lots better than the other brands I've used in the past. The other product that has improved our flocks health thanks to you, is the selenium vitamin E salt additive. We live in a selenium deficient area and I had added selenium but didn't realize it's important relationship with vitamin E.

Healthy sheep make life much more tolerable. Farming is hard enough and any contribution to making life smoother is very welcome!!

# Questions & Answers with Dr. Kennedy

**Question:** Can ewes of a seasonal breeding breed be adapted to breed out of season?

**Answer:** It depends on the breed and the distance from the Equator. The best approach is the new CIDR's that are available along with PG600.

**Question:** Do CIDR's have a shelf life? We have a few left from last summer.

**Answer:** Yes, no problem.

**Question:** I had a producer call me about yearling lambs that died shortly after shearing. They were all bum lambs from the last spring. The producer said that the sheep did not have a change in diet or signs of illness prior to shearing. They were being fed some oats and a grass/alfalfa hay mix. Is there anything similar that your clinic has seen that would fit this description?

**Answer:** I would speculate that they were in poor condition and were exposed to the elements after shearing.

**Question:** I have been lambing since January and recently one of our pen lambs seems to be having issues with their joints. The lambs have all been vaccinated with CDT and BoSe and give AD vitamins. Lambs are fine one day and the next they have one leg that has a puffy knee joint and they limp. As I said this is happening in one pen only and the lambs are all one week to two weeks old, nursing on their own mother and they all received colostrums from their mother at birth. Actually nothing out of the norm pertaining to them since birth. Any ideas? We do feed corn silage and hayledge with a 14% grain to our ewes, the lambs are being started on an 18% creep ration that contains a coccidiostat.

**Answer:** Best possibility is navel infection. Start giving 1cc of aqueous pen at birth or shortly thereafter. Possibly would be prudent to go through this group with 1cc aqueous pen per ten pounds body weight. Definitely treat all affected lambs daily same rate. You might consider giving them LA200 once, .25cc of dexamethesone once would be ok. Dip newborn lambs navels with iodine until you get through this. Daily treatment of infected lambs should continue at least one week.

**Question:** I was speaking with one of your vets last week and wanted to thank whoever it was that spoke with me about a sheep that was having difficulty birthing. We ended up taking her to the vet and the vet went to perform a c-section and we lost the ewe and the four babies. So she was having problems because of the quads, but now my question is: Do you put a sheep to sleep during a c-section or do you just do a local anesthesia? Please advise.

**Answer:** I just use a local anesthesia. Sometimes I use pre-anesthetic, xylazine, low dosage. The fact that she had four lambs was a handicap.

**Question:** Do they usually die with four? She is a Suffolk/hamp cross and the babies were all full term and larger than most of our triplets. It seemed like she died not long after being put to sleep. Do you think it just slowed her heart or because she had four it was too just too much stress? I am asking for future reference. There really wasn't anything the vet could do. I think he did the best he could.

**Answer:** She probably had an adverse reaction to the anesthetic. Sheep being animals of prey have an extreme tolerance of pain. In fact my old surgery instructor in college said sheep don't feel pain. I don't entirely believe that but next time, encourage your vet to use as little anesthesia as possible. One time when doing one of my own ewes under local anesthesia she turned around and drank water out of the surgery bucket as I was finishing up.

Spring is here!!

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Veterinary services, procedures, biologicals, and drugs mentioned in this publication represent the personal opinions and clinical observations of the contributing author. They are in no way intended to be interpreted as recommendations without the consent of the producer's own practicing Veterinarian. We strongly urge that producers establish a patient-client-veterinarian relationship that allows extra-label use when there are no drugs approved for treatment or if approved drugs are not effective. This procedure allows veterinarians to go beyond label directions when "prudent use" is necessary. The limited availability of drugs and biologics in this country is a major factor in restricting the growth of the sheep industry and allowing producers to compete in the world Market place.

## NEW IDEA

There is a report from Israel that the use of Flunixin Meglumine, 2.5mg, 1kg, 1cc per forty pounds of body weight. Intramuscular gave much better results treating pregnancy toxemia than previous conventional methods used. Flunixin is better known as the trade name Banamine. Animals were treated for three days. I suspect subcutaneous injections would work as well.

Another tip—when removing CIDR's, don't place fertile rams with ewes until 24 hours after removal. Ewes will breed out but ovulation doesn't occur generally until 36 to 48 hours after the CIDR is removed.

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