



Alta Preg InTouch

Reproduction Management News



Investments in Genetics pay Real Dividends

Identification of and aggressive selection for traits of economic importance deliver sustained benefits

As herd sizes continue to expand challenges to maintaining good reproductive performance have been well documented. Many dairies experiencing such growth have implemented a bevy of management regimes to deal with these challenges, creating protocols and procedures that help ward off disasters. All the while, the role of genetic selection as a key driver to success appears to have taken a back seat. So what's the deal? Do producers truly believe that a cow is a cow, is a cow?

The fact is that genetic selection still delivers a big bang for the buck – bigger than the return on most other investments on a dairy.

Who could blame a producer for moving down the price and hence genetic quality ladder if it takes 5 or more services to get a cow pregnant? And who could fault the producer in such instances for focusing primarily on highly fertile semen? Still, while a focus on management can get repro performance back on track, it cannot provide the permanent additive gain for an important trait like Daughter Pregnancy Rate, that genetics can. The power of genetic selection is immense.

You get what you select for...

That's a statement as true today as it ever was. Imagine a herd of 1000 cows with 100 milking daughters of two different bulls one higher by 30 lbs for CFP (Combined Fat + Protein) with the higher rated bull also predicted to deliver an extra month of Productive Life and a 1% higher Daughter Pregnancy Rate. The lower rated bull on the other hand was perceived to be a bargain at the time of purchase, with a price tag \$10 cheaper per dose than the high genetic merit sire. Even at 5 services per conception with an extra \$100 investment per daughter the high genetic merit sire generates better returns by a wide margin. At three services per conception the extra profitability of the higher genetic merit balloons to nearly \$100 per animal!

Returns from Higher Genetic Merit Bull

	5 Services per Conception	3 Services per Conception
Extra Investment	\$100 per daughter	\$50 per daughter
Extra Prod. Profit	\$50	\$50
Lower Days Open	\$24	\$24
Extra Longevity	\$33	\$33
Extra Profit/Low	\$7	\$47
Extra Profit/1000 cows	\$7,000	\$47,000

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Article contributed by **Paul Meyer**

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Monitoring reproductive programs through bovine milk and blood progesterone

Is inaccurate heat detection making you see **red on your bottomline**?

Inaccurate heat detection is costly and often the weak link in a dairy's breeding program. Research indicates that an average of 5 to 25% of cows are not in heat at the time of their insemination (Appleyard et al). Heat detection errors occur through poor heat detection technique or when a breeder is under unreasonable pressure to breed more cows. Some breeders will want to protect their conception rate by only breeding cows showing the strongest signs of estrus resulting in an insufficient number of cows bred and pregnancies created. The right balance of these two extremes will optimize pregnancy generation but how is this balance achieved? One answer may be to examine milk or serum progesterone levels at the time of breeding. Milk or serum samples are collected just after insemination and sent to a laboratory to estimate progesterone levels. Progesterone levels remain low for three days during estrus but should be at the lowest point at the time of insemination. If a cow is bred during her pre-estrus period, she will need to be re-bred on the day of actual estrus. If a cow is bred after standing estrus she may be okay as ovulation occurs after standing estrus.

Progesterone testing can also be used for monitoring synchronization protocol efficiency. Even with strong protocol compliance, synchronization program results will be disappointing if there are a significant number of non-cycling cows. Our research indicated that between 15% to 25% of cows are not cycling until 60 days post partum. In extreme cases, 20% to 25% of the cows were not cycling until about 75 days post partum.

Protocol for collecting milk/serum samples for heat detection accuracy:

- a. Sample cows after technician breeds either by observed estrus or by secondary signs or by reading the chalk.
- b. For examining efficacy of OvaSynch Program, sample a

minimum of 20 animals on the day of breeding then re-sample the same animals 7-14 days post insemination.

- c. Low progesterone at breeding and high progesterone 7-14 days post breeding indicates normal cycling of cows and validates the efficiency of the synchronization program.
- d. Low progesterone at breeding and at 7-14 days post breeding may indicate a cow is non-cycling or undergoing early embryonic death.

How to collect milk and serum samples:

1) Milk samples. As progesterone is a steroid hormone, it is five times more concentrated in milk fat than blood serum. After discarding ten to fifteen milk squirts on the ground (the first few squirts have a very small amount of milk fat), take a milk sample in a plastic bottle, about 2 ml, and add potassium dichromate tablet as a preservative. Correct sampling procedures are essential, otherwise errors in reading the progesterone could result. Label the bottle, and send it to the laboratory for assessing milk progesterone.

2) Blood samples. Blood progesterone is constant, but has less concentration as compared to milk. Obtain blood samples in red top tubes being careful not to break the vacuum in the tube. Once the samples have been collected, sit them upright in a warm place until the serum separates. Pour the serum off into an additional plastic tube. You can achieve the same results by centrifuging the serum.

Both milk and serum sampling methods will quantify the amount of progesterone in ng/ml. With improvements in technology, the costs for progesterone testing have come down in the last few years. Contact your Alta representative for more information.



Article and expert answers contributed by
Dr. A.P. Phatak *AltaPreg Field Fertility Specialist*

Ask the Expert

How to know if my cows are cycling?

To find out the cows cyclicity there are three methods.

1. Rectal palpation. That is not very accurate.
2. Ultrasound machine. Very accurate, involves experience and knowledge of ultrasound images.
3. Progesterone assay. Very accurate. Involves a lot of labor to

collect milk samples. To identify cyclicity three milk samples per week need to be collected per cow for two weeks. Progesterone being a cyclical hormone will give you the percentage of cows not cycling in the herd from the sample from which milk samples are submitted. [The technology is available through Alta Genetics.](#)

4. Twenty percent of the cows did not cycle up to sixty days post partum. Unless we palpate the cows every-day, weekly palpation of the ovaries will not give correct assessment of cyclicity.

DPR – An Important Influencer of Reproductive Performance

Many factors exist that can greatly influence reproductive performance – transition management, cow comfort, reproductive health, semen handling, synchronization protocols, sire fertility . . . the list goes on and on. In fact, research has shown that approximately 96% of producer's ability to create a pregnancy is attributed to management and environmental factors on the farm. The remaining 4% are genetic contributions from the cow (3% - daughter fertility) and genetic contributions from the bull (1-1.5% - sire fertility).

First and foremost, managers need to focus on the management and environmental factors that influence reproductive performance as simply selecting for DPR would be an exercise in futility. However, based on my recent experience analyzing reproductive records of some of the best managed dairies in the Upper Midwest, I believe the industry hasn't given DPR the respect it has earned.

When cows are managed in optimum conditions, genetic contributions to production and type traits are more clearly expressed in cow performance. The same is true for the genetic

components of fertility. All else being equal in terms of management and environment in these dairies, daughters of high ranking DPR bulls simply excel in reproductive performance. Under optimum conditions, the variation between groups of daughters of individual bulls is more pronounced and leads me to believe that in well-managed dairies, the genetic components of fertility have more influence than we may have previously thought.

Hill Top Dairy in Elkton, South Dakota places considerable emphasis on generating pregnancies and relies on Alta to deliver a genetic package that keeps this goal in mind. Alta's Large Herd Specialist, Byron Anderson works with Farm Manager Mike Guggisburg and Reproduction Manager Corey Caraway to select bulls that rank high for both sire fertility and daughter fertility. Below is an analysis of daughter fertility at this 1,500 cow dairy that consistently averages a 26-28% pregnancy rate:

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Skeptical? Why not check this out on your own dairy? Using your farm management software, compare the daughters groups for two bulls you used heavily five years ago. Look at the production differences between them. Look also at such things as average length of productive life, at the average days open, at mastitis incidence rates. Apply your own estimations for costs and for production revenue and see if you don't come to the same conclusion: genetic selection provides an impressive return on investment.



The Economic Impact of Genetics

Since it was founded nearly four decades ago, Second Look Holsteins, LLC has continually emphasized that genetics lay the groundwork for the future direction of their dairy herd.

"As we've analyzed our business, our profitability comes through growth in cattle – both quality and quantity. Looking at the genetic component of our business we've generated a **5-to-1 return on that investment**," highlights Linda Hodorff.

Second Look Holsteins, LLC, Wisconsin, is a 600 cow dairy, owned and managed by Doug and Linda Hodorff and their son Corey and his wife Tammy

	Number	DPR	Cono. Rate	Pregnancy Rate	Days Open	\$05 ME Milk
AltaTOMAHAWK	31	2.1	51	41	81	29,865
29H8558 Machoman	76	2.0	48	37	80	28,432
9H1833 Epicure	41	-0.1	38	26	133	27,166
All 2 yr olds	607		44	29	136	29,395

Feb 2006 USA PROOFS

HA.ABCODE	NAME	PTAKI	PL	SCS	DPR	H% ₁	MREL	HRI\$	PTAT	UDC	FL	TPI
011H00433	RUDY	-300	3.1	2.95	2.4	2.78	87%	287	2.65	2.89	1.49	1614
122H01354	FORREST	1198	2.2	3.03	1.7	1.24	96%	313	0.52	0.11	0.09	1483
011H00506	AltaBLASTOFF	759	3.3	2.68	3.5	2.56	98%	324	1.02	1.60	0.23	1497
011H00486	AltaTOMAHAWK	1387	2.6	2.73	2.1	2.30	99%	297	0.99	1.59	0.52	1501
122H01342	JEVON	928	3.4	2.84	2.1	2.83	98%	280	0.68	1.27	1.41	1476
	Avg 5	784	2.92	2.84	2.3	2.33		300	1.17	1.49	0.74	1515

As has been experienced before in the A.I. industry, extreme bulls provide extreme results. Alta is without a doubt the leading supplier of extreme, high ranking DPR bulls. Of the 12 active A.I. bulls with 85% reliability for milk and > 2.0 DPR, Alta supplies the market with 5 bulls (a whopping 42% of the market).

REPRO FACTS

AltaALLEGRO and AltaALLY were #1 and #2 among the FITNESS Top 10 group in 2005. What makes these bulls so popular and just how do they rank in the industry?

Developed with 'progressive customers' needs in mind, and focus on creating PROFITABLE and TROUBLE-FREE cows with HIGH COMPONENTS. AltaALLEGRO and AltaALLY meet all and pass many of these criteria within USA ranking of all domestic and foreign bulls. The amazing fact is that there are only 3 bulls in the WORLD that meet those criteria.

BullName	TPI	CMS	CFP	%F	%P	PL	DPR	UDC	Ptr	HP	tuf	pldpr
AltaALLEGRO	1727	460	129	0.11	0.03	1.1	0.7	0.43	126	0.1	0.8	1.8
AltaALLY	1676	541	120	0.23	0.04	2.3	1.2	1.05	247	0.8	0.5	3.5
Thresholds	1600	450	100	0.00	0.00	1.0	0.5	0.00	100			

Note that there are several composite traits in this list above, which use to minimize the thresholds used in bull selection. PL-DPR is the sum of PL and DPR and is a quick measure of FITNESS. TUF is an index with 50% weight on UDC and 25% each on PTAT and FLC, and is a quick measure of TYPE. CFP is the sum of PTAF and PTAP, and is a quick measure of PRODUCTION. USDA/HA Feb 2006

Reproductive Excellence

How it's done at Hill Top Dairy

Consistently achieve pregnancy rates of 26-28% . . . conception rates exceeding 40% through summer heat stress . . . 100% compliance with synchronization protocols. Lofty reproductive goals that are nearly impossible to achieve?

Not at Hill Top Dairy located in Elkton, South Dakota. With a team approach to dairy management, Hill Top Dairy has successfully transformed from a newly expanded dairy with similar expansion challenges that hold some dairies back to a well-oiled machine that is moving full steam ahead.

Built in 1998, Hill Top is home to 1,600 cows and went through its share of expansion growing pains. In 2003, Mike Guggisberg joined Hill Top Dairy as Farm Manager and brought a new attitude to management of the dairy.

"I've found you have most success if you empower key employees to take charge of their areas of interest," shares Mike. "Corey had a background in breeding and understands synchronization programs, so I gave him those responsibilities," continues Mike in speaking of Corey Caraway the Reproductive Program Manager at Hill Top.

In 2003, cow comfort was not where it needed to be to achieve optimum performance results. Cows were under conditioned, had feet problems, and no heat

abatement program had been put in place. This had measurable impacts on reproductive performance; leading to a pregnancy rate that was below the national average. "There are no band-aids in the dairy business and constantly changing programs in an attempt to solve problems is not in the best interest of the cow," relates Mike. Cow comfort was reemphasized and several updates were made that had immediate impacts: heat abatement (fans and sprinklers), improved nutrition program, routine hoof trimming program, rubber matting in holding area, and ample bedding in the stalls.

75% of the breedings at Hill Top are a result of synchronization programs. Hill Top uses a PreSynch - CoSynch - Resynch program in addition to visual observation to consistently achieve pregnancy rates that range between 26-28%. "We try to keep the programs simple, but have a keen attention to the details," reinforces Corey. Every six months, Alta Large Herd Specialist, Byron Anderson, organizes an A.I. refresher certification of all employees involved in the repro program.

Corey and Mike agree that this it is very easy to pick up bad habits and this certification eliminates human error from consideration if cows aren't conceiving.

"Pregnant cows drive our profitability, so every decision made at the dairy needs to have a reproductive consideration," state Corey. Is a 30% pregnancy rate on the horizon for Hill Top? "30% is attainable with a continued focus on the details, improved consistency in our feeding program, and updates to our transition facilities," highlights Corey of the dairies future direction.



Left: Corey Caraway (Repro Manager)
Right: Mike Guggisberg (Manager)

WORTHY RESEARCH

Early colostrum nutrition impacts milk yield

New research from the University of Arizona shows that the volume of colostrum fed at birth impacts future milk production- and your bottom line. Brown Swiss calves fed 4.2 quarts of colostrum at birth produced about 2 pounds more milk per day during their first two lactations than calves fed 2.1 quarts. At \$13/hundredweight, that equates to \$160 in additional income.

Ask your Alta Representative on how to reap the benefits of Calf's Choice Total™

Calves Fed	with 2.1 Quarts	with 4.2 Quarts
Vet cost per calf	\$24.51	\$14.77
Avg. daily gain	1.76 pounds	2.27 pounds
1st lact milk yield	19,739 pounds	21,845 pounds
2nd lact milk yield	21,261 pounds	24,903 pounds

Source: Oct 2005, The Professional Animal Scientist

KEY DETAILS OF HILL TOP DAIRY'S REPRO PROGRAM:

- Calm cows (injection times and at breeding)
- 100% shot compliance with synchronization programs
 - ▲ 20 gauge, 1.5 inch needles
 - ▲ no multiple dose guns for hormone injections
 - ▲ proper injection site in downward motion
 - ▲ appropriate dosage and timing of injections
- Structured synchronization programs
- Concentrate on one unit at a time (thaw, gun-load, and insemination)
- Elapsed time from tank to insemination – three minutes
- VWP of 70 days
- Pregnancy check at 35-42 DIM
- Concentrated heat detection on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
- Genetic selection for higher fertility (sire and daughter fertility)

KEY HIGHLIGHTS OF HILL TOP DAIRY'S REPRODUCTIVE SUCCESS:

- 43% pregnancy rate for first 21-day cycle following VWP
- 50% of milking herd pregnant by 100 DIM
- Palpated pregnancy rate consistently above 50%
- June 2005-September 2005 conception rate of 42%
- 97% service rate in first 21-day cycle following VW



Reproductive Success The Value of Partnerships

The success story of Hill Top Dairy is clear evidence that Alta Genetics Inc. is more than just a semen supplier – Alta is Hill Top Dairy's partner in ensuring high standards in reproductive performance. From the start of the turnaround, it has been a complete team effort between Hill Top Dairy staff and the team of specialists from Alta.

With a team approach to consultative relationship building, Byron Anderson, Alta Large Herd Specialist, Dr. Chet Rawson (Alta Field Fertility Specialist), and Charlie Hagen (Alta District Sales Manager) have been actively involved in the Hill Top transformation. Bryon has effectively utilized the expertise of Dr. Chet Rawson, Alta Field Fertility Specialist, and Charlie Hagen, Alta District Sales Manager, in providing information and developing solutions that have been incorporated into Hill Top Dairy's management protocols.

The team was instrumental in developing the PreSynch – CoSynch – ReSynch protocols used at the farm. "Byron continually stressed the importance of compliance with synchronization programs. We've experienced the positive results you can achieve with strict adherence to the programs," highlights Corey. Additionally, single dose syringes, 20 gauge 1.5 inch needles, tweezers, and 1/4 cc straws all became standard operating procedures upon recommendations from Alta team.

Alta's success as a company relies on our ability to provide our clients with reproductive products and services that assist them to meet your dairy business goals and objectives. "Alta's been a key factor in the ongoing success of our dairy," acknowledges Mike.



HERD MANAGEMENT TIPS

- 1) Provide high quality forage .
- 2) Feeding consistency.
- 3) Stall design and comfort.
(For help in assessing your facilities, link to: <http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/dms/fapm/fapmtools/5house/stall-flowchart.pdf>)
- 4) Time away from feed, water and beds/stalls.
- 5) Minimize pen changes.
- 6) Watch out for stocking density in the pre- and post-fresh groups.
- 7) Remove chronic disease carriers and don't contaminate healthy groups by co-mingling.
- 8) Early detection and intervention of lame cows.

Attributes of Successful Dairies

Over the last three years I have had the opportunity to visit many large successful dairies around the US. I have observed some common traits in these dairies that are worth sharing.

Commonly stated personal and business goals of the owner or owners. They have discussed and agreed upon where they wish to go and how they will get there.

A consistent management style with an understanding and respect of the labor force on the dairy.

Elements of this style include:

- 1) Job descriptions
- 2) Written protocols
- 3) Ongoing training and retraining
- 4) Regular performance evaluations
- 5) Appropriate compensation

A consistent management style with a primary focus on cow health and well-being. This promotes the underlying belief that consistently doing what is best for cows is best for the business.

Using available outside resources and information to continually update management practices.

These resources include but are not limited to:

- a) Herd Veterinarians
- b) Herd Nutritionists
- c) Outside Experts
- d) Peer Groups
- e) Professional Organizations
- f) Institutional Resources
- g) Industry Support and Programs

Sound husbandry practices that are consistently delivered to cows with an emphasis on cow health, well-being and performance through happy, enlightened and motivated people.

In short, when we have happy people, bored healthy cows and a proper plan consistently executed, many good things will happen.

Article by **Dr. Chet Rawson**,
Alta Field Fertility Specialist

Herd Metabolic Profiles

Valuable information on a herd's nutritional and health status can be gained through various tests run on blood samples.

These metabolic profiles have not been widely used in the United States due mainly due to cost and skill required to interpret the results.

Typically eight to twelve individuals are sampled within a herd or group for evaluation. The profiled results are then interpreted as a mean value or percent of individuals deviating from the defined normal range. Some of the more common metabolic profiles and what they evaluate are:

SUN – (Serum Urea Nitrogen) indicates soluble protein in the feed

Cholesterol – provides information on fat metabolism

Albumin – provides information on kidney function and amount of available protein

AST – (Aspartate Aminotransferase) provides information on liver function

Calcium – indicates changes in Calcium level from pre-partum to post-partum

BHBA – (Beta Hydroxy Butaric Acid) indicates incidence of sub clinical ketosis

NEFA – (Nonesterified fatty acids) indicates energy balance and feed intake from pre-partum to post-partum

Glucose – indicates available energy for milk production

Progesterone – provides information on cyclicity and can predict embryonic losses

These metabolic profiles provide valuable information to evaluate management practices and facilities including:

Accuracy of feed formulation and preparation

Feed intakes and over crowding

Health status of herd

Post partum fertility of herd

The level of performance in all of these key management areas ultimately affects a herd's reproductive success. With new technology these tests have become more economical.

If your herd could benefit from this valuable service contact your Alta representative.

Article contributed by

Dr. A.P. Phatak AltaPreg Field Fertility Specialist



Article by Dr. Carlos Tellez *Bilingual Fertility Specialist*

Next issue: *AltaPreg Tools*

Keys for success and *AltaPreg* results.

Próximo artículo: *Herramientas de AltaPreg,*

Claves para triunfar y Resultados con AltaPreg.



BRIDGING THE CULTURAL GAP ON FARMS ACROSS AMERICA

It is not a secret that the Hispanic work force has been growing in the dairies across America. In today's dairy farms the herd health procedures are becoming the responsibility of the on-farm Hispanic employees. Language and culture represent a barrier that affects the general performance of the dairy operation.

Alta Genetics cares about the quality of service it provides. That's why DSM's use AltaPreg, as an important tool to respond to this reality, offering bilingual field services in different areas (A.I training, milking schools, maternity training, fresh cows schools, dairy management, calve care, etc). I understand that each dairy has different needs and expectations, and that's why I set aside special time during the first visit to meet the people who work on the dairy and discuss their concerns. Then with the information gathered during the initial visit and a thorough review of the records, we finally set up a complete list of goals. During the process monthly visits are made to ensure all the

objectives have been developed correctly.

Employee education

In my visits I notice the desire and enthusiasm of the employees to acquire the skills needed to improve on their their performance.

The program is designed not just to train them, but also to make people feel valued and respected. This opportunity of education allows advancement in their jobs and elevate their participation in the dairy.

CREANDO UN PUENTE ENTRE DIFERENTES CULTURAS EN LAS LECHERIAS DE AMERICA

Para nadie es secreto que la fuerza de trabajo Hispana ha crecido en las lecherías de América. Hoy en día los procedimientos de salud del hato lechero están comenzando a ser responsabilidad de los empleados Hispanos. El language y la cultura representan una barrera que afecta el rendimiento general de la empresa lechera.

Alta Genetics se preocupa por la calidad del servicio que provee, y es por eso que las personas encargadas de las ventas (DSM's) utilizan

AltaPreg como herramienta importante para responder a esta realidad, ofreciendo servicios de asistencia profesional bilingüe en diferentes áreas, (inseminación artificial, escuelas de ordeño, entrenamiento en maternidad, protocolos en vacas frescas, manejo de la lechería, cuidado de los recién nacidos, etc). Entendiendo las necesidades y expectativas presentes en cada lechería, dedico un tiempo especial durante la primera visita para conocer los empleados y sus preocupaciones. Después con la información recogida durante la visita inicial y con la revisión de los registros establecemos la lista de metas a alcanzar. Durante el proceso, visitas mensuales se realizan para verificar que los objetivos propuestos se cumplan.

Educación del empleado.

En mis visitas noto el entusiasmo y deseo de los empleados hispanos por adquirir las habilidades técnicas necesarias para desarrollar sus trabajos. El programa esta diseñado no sólo para entrenarlos, sino también para hacerlos sentir valorados por las actividades que desarrollan en la lechería. Esta oportunidad de educación les permite avanzar en su trabajo, mejorar la calidad de vida y participar con sus opiniones en la lechería.





Decisive™ semen with the Alta Advantage® coming to market

Alta and Monsanto have entered an agreement for Alta to market **Decisive™ semen for Advanced Gender Selection**. The agreement announced February 9, 2006 continues Alta's momentum that initially began with the launch of the unparalleled Advantage® progeny-testing program in August 2005.

The Decisive™ technology identifies and selects sperm cells with the desired X chromosome. The process results in a product capable of producing predominantly female offspring while achieving overall reproductive performance that is as effective as current AI results.

"Through this agreement, Alta will offer dairy producers another valuable tool to manage the reproductive performance and genetic quality of their herd," says Cees Hartmans, Alta's Chief Executive Officer. *"Decisive™ will allow dairy producers to accelerate their genetic progress through increased selection intensity, while Alta's exclusive Advantage® program increases the accuracy of sire proofs."*

"Together, our two firms will offer progressive dairies Decisive™ semen with the Alta Advantage®," Hartmans continues.

Alta estimates that Decisive™ semen with the Alta Advantage® will be available commercially in 2007, following a series of validation trials conducted in selected Advantage® herds. Data will be collected to confirm that Decisive™ is easy to use, provides consistent results, and contributes to overall reproductive performance.

For more about Decisive™ semen with the Alta Advantage®, visit Alta's website at: www.altagenetics.com/decisive

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Alta California celebrates its best ever 2006 World Ag Exposition

(Tulare, California February 14 –16)



Customers, non-customers and industry partners filled the Alta California 40 X 80 foot tent during all three days of the World Ag Exposition. Participants took the opportunity to meet with the Alta team, fellow dairy producers and discuss the latest Alta and industry news.

It was not all business either. Playing up the theme of *"Don't Gamble with Your Reproductive Program"*, visitors were able to participate in a Texas Hold 'Em tournament as well as to relax and enjoy a complimentary lunch. The grand prize was \$1000 of Alta semen plus the chance to win a customized breeding cart. In addition, Alta California hosted a raffle for the customized breeding cart and other industry prizes, with proceeds from both the tournament and raffle directly benefiting local youth through the *Alta California Scholarship Fund*. Two scholarships are awarded annually to local high school seniors pursuing an education in Agriculture with an emphasis in Dairy Production.

"The purpose of this year's presence at the show was to offer thanks and appreciation to our customers for their outstanding support during a fantastic year of positive results from Alta California and Alta Genetics", says John Azevedo, General Sales Manager for Alta California. Recognizing the achievements reached in 2005, and with a strong start in 2006, Alta California set to continue its momentum in the future.

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