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Equine chorionic gonadotropin (eCG) administration after insemination affects luteal function and pregnancy establishment in postpartum anestrous beef cows

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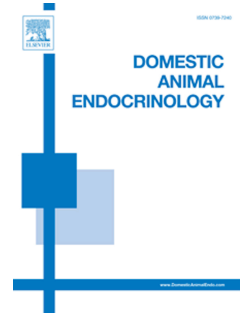
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2 **insemination affects luteal function and pregnancy establishment**
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12
13 **Abstract**

14 Two experiments were conducted with the aim of determining the effect of equine
15 chorionic gonadotropin (eCG) administration on day 14 after insemination on ovarian
16 response and pregnancy establishment in postpartum anestrous beef cows. In both
17 experiments, cows were subjected to a progesterone- and estradiol-based treatment for
18 fixed-time artificial insemination (FTAI), and were randomly allocated into four groups to
19 receive or not receive eCG (400 IU) at the time of device removal and/or at 14 d after
20 FTAI. In Experiment 1, from day 14 to 22, daily ultrasonographic determinations were
21 performed to monitor ovarian dynamics, and blood was collected to determine hormone
22 concentrations in 60 cows. In Experiment 2, confirmation of pregnancy was performed at
23 30 and 60 d after FTAI in 1,060 anestrous cows assigned to the same experimental
24 design. Cows that received eCG on day 14 after FTAI showed increases in corpus luteum
25 area ($P < 0.01$), follicle diameter ($P < 0.05$), serum progesterone concentrations ($P <$

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