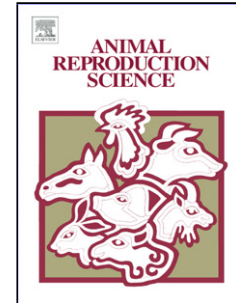


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Superstimulation with eCG prior to ovum pick-up improves follicular development and fertilization rate of cattle oocytes

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to evaluate the effect of equine chorionic gonadotrophin (eCG) stimulation prior to ovum pick-up (OPU) on follicular development, number and quality of recovered oocytes, fertilization rate, and early embryo development *in vitro*. There were four OPU sessions (cross over) conducted on 16 Braford cows to evaluate the effect of various eCG doses. The timing of the wave of ovarian follicular development was synchronized, and three days after, the respective eCG dose was administrated (0, 200, 400, or 800 IU). The OPU was performed on Day 6, and viable oocytes were used for IVM and IVF according to the respective treatment. After IVF treatment, the fertilization and cleavage rates, time of cleavage, and the cell number at 48 hours were evaluated. There was no difference in the number of follicles, oocyte quantity, and

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