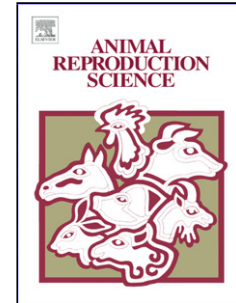


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Gonadotropin concentrations associated with variations in diameter deviation during follicle selection in Holstein heifers

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ABSTRACT

Diameter deviation or selection of the future dominant follicle (F1) from the future largest subordinate follicle (F2) during a follicular wave occurs when F1 is 8.5 mm (expected deviation, day 0). Deviation has been classified as conventional ($F2 \geq 7.0$ mm), F2-undersized ($F2 < 7.0$ mm), and F1,F2-switched (F2 larger than F1 on day -1 or 0). Concentrations of gonadotropins were compared within and among deviation classifications in waves 1 and 2 in 48 heifers. A three-way (wave 1 compared with 2, classification, day) analysis indicated no effect of wave 1 compared with 2 on F2 or FSH. An interaction of classification by day for F2 diameter ($P < 0.001$) and FSH concentration ($P < 0.005$) was primarily from differences on day -1. Rankings on day -1 from greatest to least for F2 diameter were switched, conventional, and undersized and for FSH concentration were undersized, conventional, and switched. Lower FSH concentration in conventional compared with undersized deviations during the decline in the

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