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Synchronization treatments previous to natural breeding anticipate and improve the pregnancy rate of postpartum primiparous beef cows

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1 **Synchronization treatments previous to natural breeding anticipate and improve**
2 **the pregnancy rate of postpartum primiparous beef cows**

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9

10 **Abstract**

11 Timed AI has become a potential tool to bypass postpartum acyclicity, yet only a small
12 percentage of the world bovine herd is inseminated. Most females are still subjected to
13 bull mating; therefore, the frequent occurrence of postpartum anestrus may compromise
14 their reproductive efficiency. Thus, the aim of this study was to develop an approach
15 that allows the early conception of postpartum primiparous beef cows that are exposed
16 to natural breeding (NB). For this purpose, 350 primiparous Nelore cows 35 to 65 d
17 postpartum were allocated into three groups: Control (no hormonal treatment), TNB
18 (hormonal protocol for timed-NB without equine chorionic gonadotropin; eCG) and
19 TNB+eCG (hormonal protocol for TNB with eCG) groups. The protocol for TNB
20 consisted of the insertion of a 1-g progesterone device and the intramuscular (IM)
21 administration of 2 mg estradiol benzoate on D-9 (nine days before bull exposure),
22 followed by device removal and the administration of 1 mg estradiol cypionate IM on
23 D0. An additional 300 IU of eCG was given only to TNB+eCG cows. All cows were
24 exposed to bull mating from D0 to D105. Pregnancy was checked by ultrasonography

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