

PREGNANCY LOSSES: PREVALENCE, TIMING, AND ASSOCIATED CAUSES

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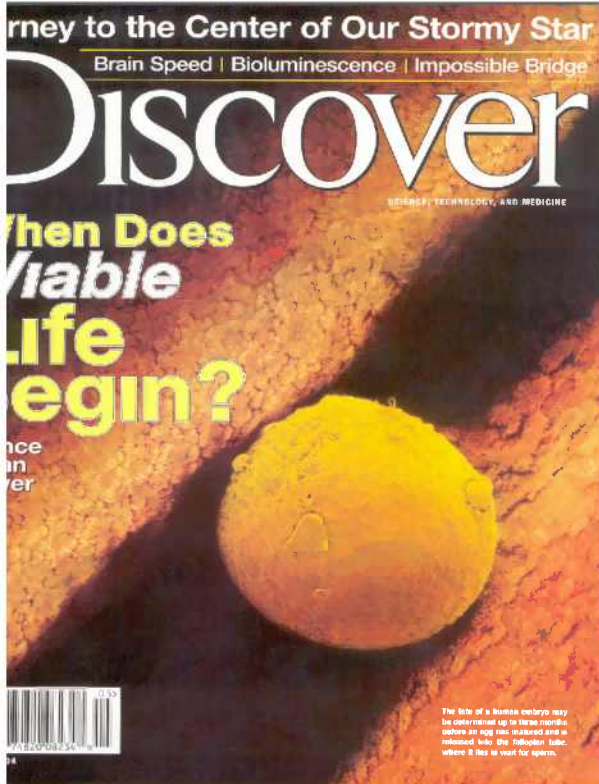
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Outline of Presentation

- Incidence and prevalence of pregnancy losses in dairy cattle
- Timing of pregnancy losses
- Factors associated with embryonic and fetal losses in lactating dairy cattle
 - ✓ I will not discuss infectious causes
 - ✓ I will not discuss possible methods to improve embryonic survival



HUMANS

- Fertilization after natural intercourse: ~ 35%
- 50% of the eggs fertilized through AI do not develop further

Only ~ 33% of the fertilized eggs reach term



Ovulation Fertilization Week 2 Week 4 Week 13 Week 26 Week 38



Reports on Fertility of Dairy Cattle

➤ Lactating cows

- ✓ Steady decline in conception rates the last 50 years reported in the US, England, Israel, and Spain

➤ Dairy heifers

- ✓ Little or no change in conception rates in the last 20 to 30 years

Milk Production and Conception Rate (CR) in Lactating Dairy Cows (NE USA)

