



2021-098: Genomic variations associated with gestation length in beef cattle

Researcher: Mika Asai-Coakwell

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Increased gestation lengths are correlated with calving difficulty, and can increase post-partum interval for cows. The selection for shorter gestation length has similar benefits as smaller birth weight, without an association to low growth rates and weaning weights. A shorter gestation also ensures that cows have a longer period to recover.

Researchers have already narrowed the search for potentially associated genes with shorter gestations, which span across Angus, Charolais, Limousin, and Holstein-Friesen breeds.

This work, from Dr. Mika Asai-Coakwell at the University of Saskatchewan will track sires with long and short gestation lengths, identifying their genomic differences. Her team will then test the predictive value of the genomic data assumed to be responsible for this trait.