

7. Summary

Development of a computerbased training program on reproductive management in dairy cows under special consideration of strategic use of hormones

The CD-ROM „Reproductive management in dairy cattle, Part 2” is a computer-based training program for veterinary students and practitioners.

With a total of 392 pages, 67 images, 19 interactive applications, 7 animations and 56 audio files the basic concepts of strategic reproductive management, including use of reproductive hormones are explained. Practical advice for the implementation of this approach of herd health management are given. Practical ready to print forms and interactive tools for the practitioner are included. Five example herds representing typical reproductive problems are presented interactively to apply the knowledge learned and to evaluate the learning success of the user.

The training program deals with a specific and complex subject matter. Traditional teaching materials for this subject are scarce in Germany. The processes of planning, structuring, media acquisition and programming are described. The four moduls of the program „Basics”, „Synchronization”, „Programs” and „Tools” are introduced and discussed in detail. The CD-ROM has been created with special regards to the implementation of reproductive management programs in the field.

Experiences collected and challenges occurred during the development of the training program „Reproductive management in dairy cattle. Part 2” are documented and discussed. Especially the options of a case based learning approach, the presentation of research results and the advantages and disadvantages of computer based training in comparison to conventional learning are considered.