

Dr. Hopkins Reviews

Steven M. Hopkins, DVM, DACT[†]

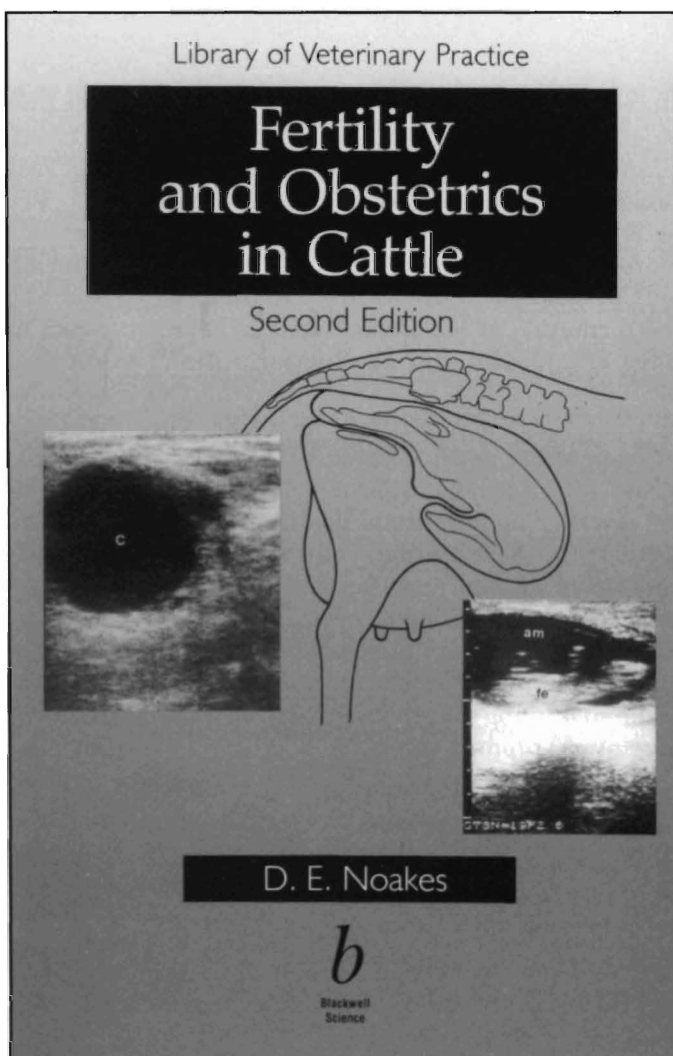
The book's strength is also the primary weakness: brief topic sections. There are two parts, the first containing twelve general headings related to the female and the second containing three headings covering male topics. The topics covered are the same as found in much larger, detailed texts, e.g. normal non-pregnant and pregnant animals, parturition, post-partum, and so on. The content of each topic provides only key current pieces of information on the subject. As a result, this would be a good adjunct text to a clinical reproductive course. The text provides logical, organized sections of information briefly describing each topic. This serves to clarify questions or identify topics more thoroughly reviewed in larger texts.

The text contains differences in the practice of veterinary medicine between the United States and England. One example is the use and availability of certain drugs, e.g., clenbuterol, which is outlawed in the U.S. Also, there are certain areas in which the author tries to cover too much information (e.g., the rectal palpation topic) or too little information (e.g., ultrasound) or have a bias toward beef rather than dairy production (e.g., pregnancy diagnosis). Some aspects of practice are not discussed (e.g., rotating the fetus to prevent hiplock).

Overall Recommendation

The information provided in the text is current and accurate within the confines of a short text. This book would be appropriate

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for someone learning bovine reproduction or as an adjunct to a course. In general, the text would be of little use to graduate, experienced veterinarians. ♦

Fertility and Obstetrics in Cattle by D.E. Noakes. Paperback, 146 pp. Distributed for Blackwell Science. ISBN 0-632-04083-1. 1997. Available through ISU Press, 2121 S. State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014-8300. \$34.95, price subject to change without notice.