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An observational analysis of twin births, calf sex ratio, and calf mortality in Holstein dairy cattle.

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To assess twinning trends across time, a data set of calving records from Jan 1996 to Sep 2004 comprising 6,226 herds with 2,901,697 calving events was extracted from Minnesota DHIA archives. The final analysis will include 2,318,601 calving records from 4,123 herds representing 1,088,962 Holstein cows and 96,222 twin births.

Data will be presented for the following analyses:

- Trends across time for the main effects of calving season and parity
- Gender ratios for both twins and singleton births
- Calf mortality status at birth as reported to DHIA.

Prior publication issues limit the inclusion of results in this proceedings paper. However, preliminary data and analyses will be presented at the meeting.

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