FARMER GUIDE

BREEDING PROTOCOLS FOR BEEF COWS

The Zoetis fertility product range now offers you the possibility of flexible breeding protocols, designed to specifically meet the needs of your heifers and cows.

Timely and efficient breeding of beef cows early in the season is crucial to ensure the maximum calf crop during the lifetime of the cows and a high and uniform calf crop for sale or rearing each year. Many beef cows are not cycling at the start of the breeding season, particularly whilst suckling a calf. Breeding protocols that induce oestrus and synchronise ovulation allow breeding of all animals at the start of the season, regardless of their cyclicity status and breeding strategy.

What tasks can I address with breeding protocols?

- **Synchronisation of cows for first breeding**
- **Synchronisation of returns**
- **Embryo transfer**

What breeding strategies could I use?

- **Natural mating**
- **AI to observed heat**
- **Fixed time artificial insemination**

What protocols could I use?

		Natural mating	AI at observed heat	Fixed time artificial insemination
CIDR-sync protocol	Suitable for cycling and non-cycling animals	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
CIDR+eCG protocol	Suitable for non-cycling animals	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Prostaglandin programmes	Suitable for cycling animals only	**Yes**, but careful identification and selection of animals is required	**Yes**	**Yes**, but results are improved with heat observation
CIDR basic programme	Suitable for cycling animals only	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**, but results are improved with heat observation

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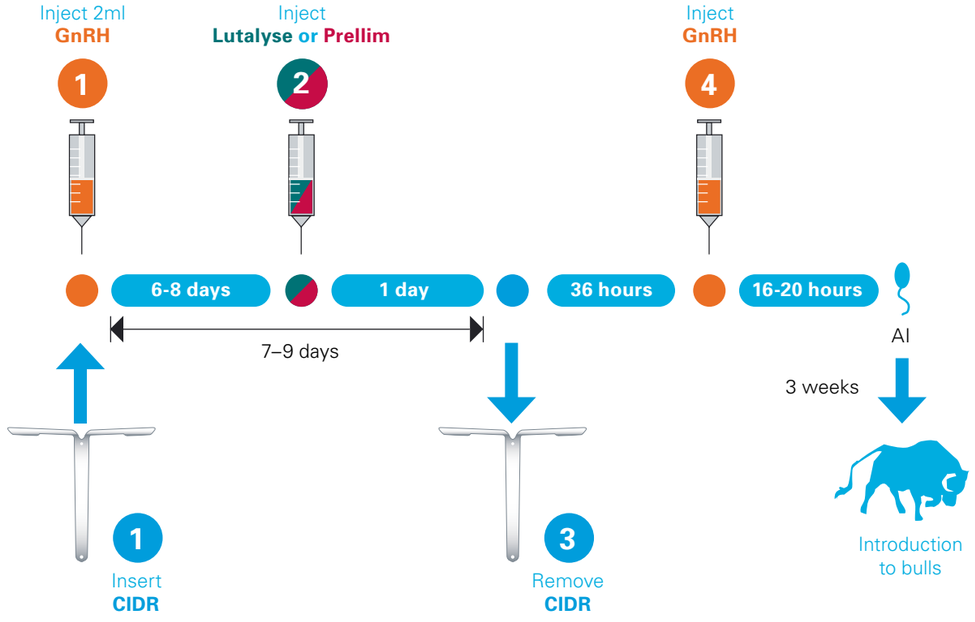
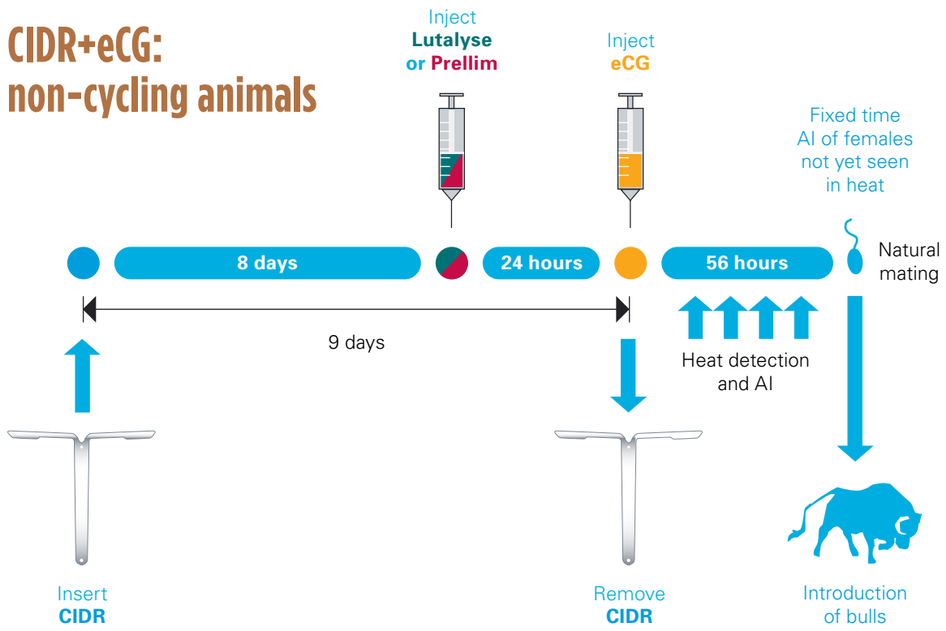
CIDR-sync: cycling and non-cycling animals



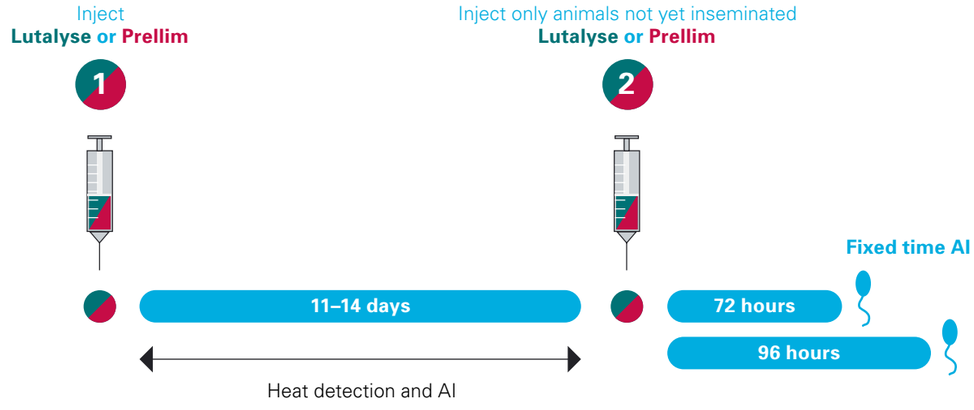
- This programme provides highly precise synchronisation of ovulation, especially useful in embryo transfer programmes or when performing insemination with sexed semen but also to tighten the calving period
- Progesterone provides additional benefits such as improved follicle health and signs of heat
- Non-cycling animals are likely to have their natural cyclicity corrected to enable successful breeding at this service or in subsequent cycles
- 'Clear-up' bulls can be introduced up to 3 weeks after AI to allow natural mating of empty females

CIDR+eCG: non-cycling animals



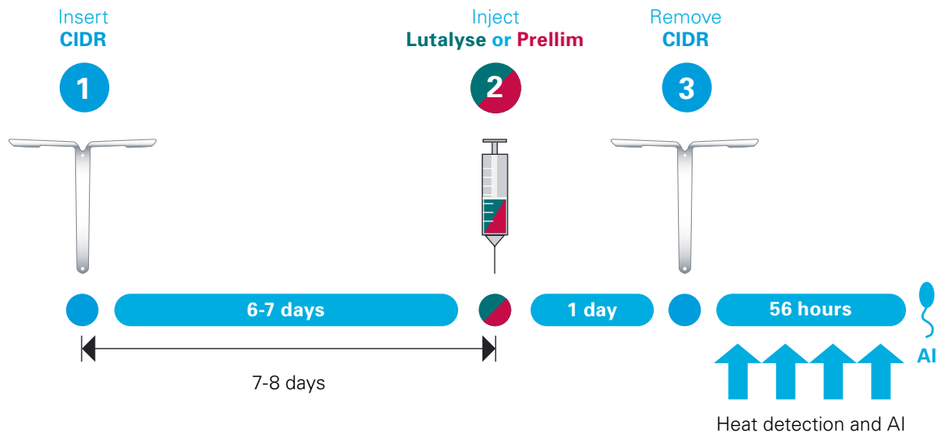
- The addition of eCG to the breeding protocol is useful in non-cycling cows and cows in poor body condition to stimulate follicle growth and ovulation
- Used with the progesterone and prostaglandin this ensures favourable hormonal conditions to maximise the chances of breeding success
- 'Clear-up' bulls can be introduced up to 3 weeks after AI to allow natural mating of empty females which should have now had their cyclicity restored

Prostaglandin programme: cycling animals only



- This straightforward protocol with heat detection and follow up AI for cycling cows reduces animal handlings and improves the number of cows served in a given time period
- Cows must be well identified and recorded so that they do not receive a subsequent dose of prostaglandin if inseminated

CIDR programme: cycling animals only



- The combination of heat detection after CIDR removal with a 'finishing' FTAI at 56 hours optimises the use of resources and maximises submission rates
- Progesterone provides additional benefits such as improved follicle health and signs of heat

For further information please contact your veterinary surgeon or
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