

FARMER GUIDE

BREEDING PROTOCOLS FOR DAIRY HEIFERS

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.

Heifers represent both the investment and future prospects of any dairy herd. Timely and well planned introduction of heifers is crucial to maximise their life-long milk yield and production of calves for sale or replacements.

▶ What tasks can I address with breeding protocols?

- Introduction of heifers into breeding
- Synchronisation of returns
- Embryo transfer

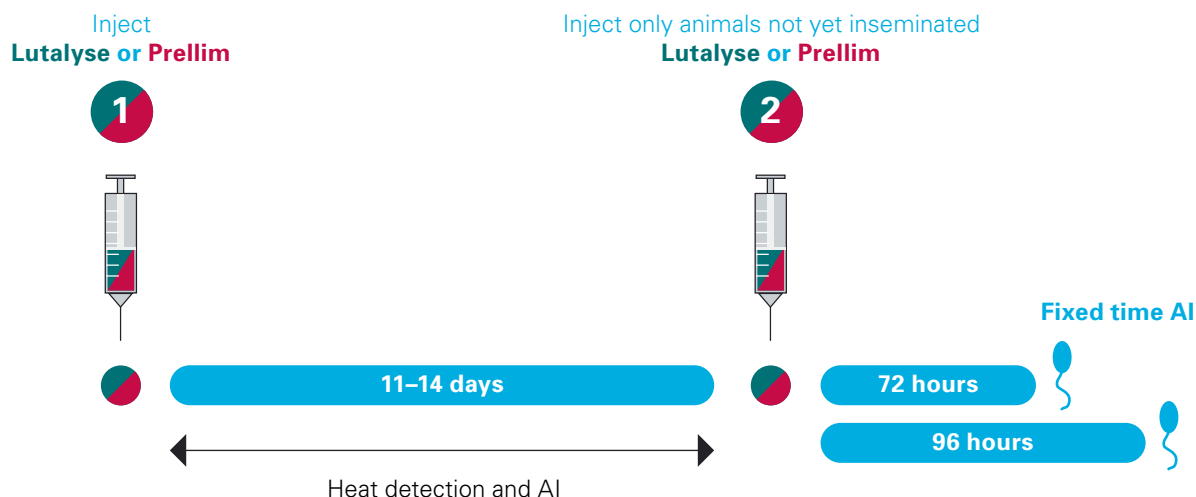
▶ What breeding strategies could I use?

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

▶ What protocols could I use?

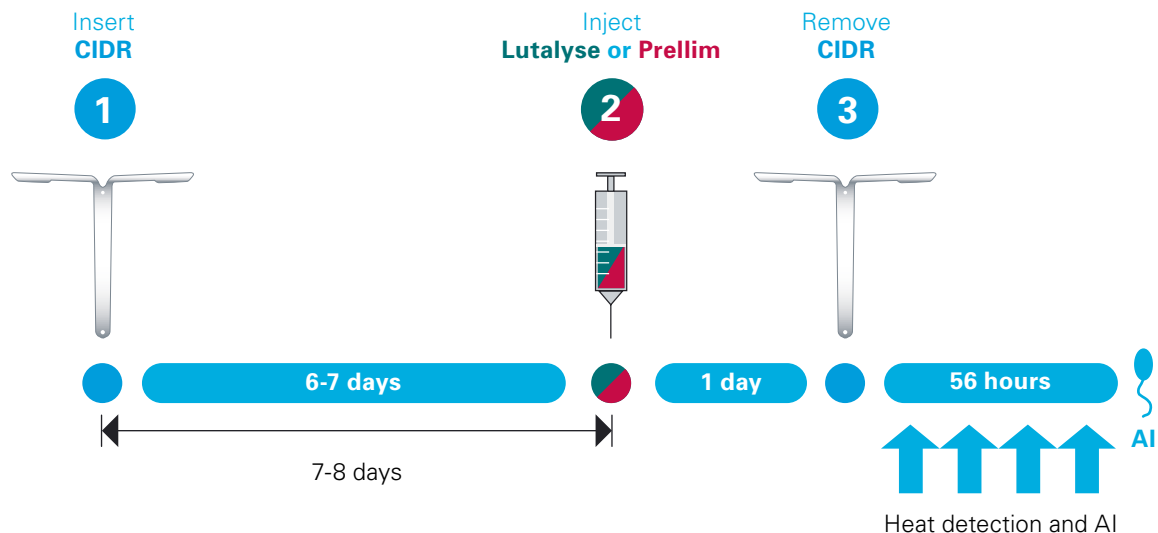
		Natural mating	AI at observed heat	Fixed time artificial insemination
Prostaglandin programmes	Suitable for cycling animals only	Yes, but careful identification and selection of animals is required	Yes	Yes, but results are improved with heat observation
CIDR basic programme	Suitable for cycling animals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

▶ Prostaglandin programme: cycling animals



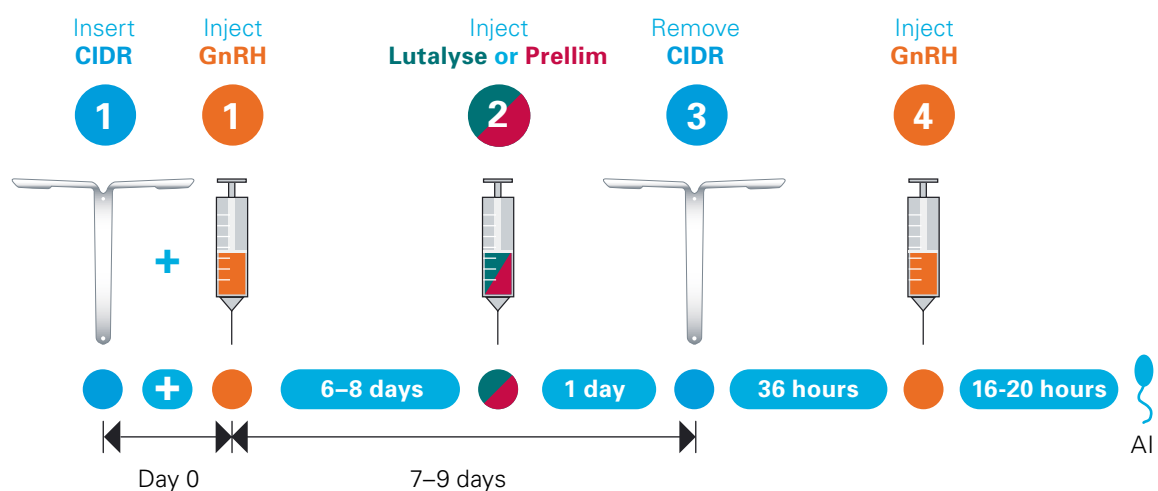
- This straightforward protocol with heat detection and follow up AI for cycling heifers reduces animal handlings and improves the number of heifers served in a given time period
- Heifers must be well identified and recorded so that they do not receive a subsequent dose of prostaglandin if inseminated

► CIDR programme: cycling animals



- 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

► 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
- 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 14 days after AI to allow natural mating of empty females