BREEDING PROTOCOLS FOR DAIRY 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.

In a modern dairy herd, prompt re-introduction of cows into breeding after the voluntary waiting period is crucial to ensure profitable milk production and supply of replacement heifers. High producing dairy herds require programmes that provide the optimal hormone conditions for follicular growth and subsequent embryo development. Seasonal dairy herds require a tight synchronisation of breeding to ensure that cows calve at the optimum time. An early diagnosis of non-pregnancy in cows allows for a programmed rebreeding to maximise reproductive success and decrease the interval between services. Many dairy herds have low heat detection rates or a significant proportion of non-cycling animals and therefore will benefit from a programme that is flexible and suitable for each situation.

What tasks can I address with breeding protocols?

- Prompt breeding of high producing dairy cows, whether cycling or non-cycling
- Synchronisation of returns
- Tight synchronisation of breeding for seasonal herds
- Embryo transfer
CIDR-sync: cycling and non-cycling animals

Why use the GnRH at CIDR insertion?
To ensure any dominant follicle present at the time of CIDR insertion is ovulated so that a fresh follicle develops ready for service. Dairy cows will benefit from the increased fertility of a fresh follicle being ovulated, particularly if they are not cycling normally.

Why inject lutealyse or prelim the day before CIDR removal?
Lutealyse and Prelim are both prostaglandins that act to destroy a corpus luteum. Using a prostaglandin the day before CIDR removal ensures that any corpus luteum present is removed so that once the CIDR is removed ALL progesterone is eliminated.

Why give the second GnRH?
To ensure that ovulation takes place and control (synchronise) the timing of ovulation ready for fixed time AI. This injection is not needed if heat detection is performed.

Is there anything else I can do?
Yes, problem cows could receive an additional dose of GnRH on day 12 after insemination to act as a “holding injection” to improve the chances that the treated cow will be fertile.

Use at start of breeding season:

Use for resynchronisation:

Why use progesterone in a breeding programme?
- Progesterone priming is important for a healthy dominant follicle
- Progesterone priming improves subsequent luteal phase duration to help with pregnancy or the subsequent cycle
- Progesterone improves the growth and health of the developing embryo
- Progesterone levels are low in suckling beef cows and high producing dairy cows
- Progesterone therapy overcomes anoestrus with a fertile cycle
- Progesterone priming improves the signs of heat

Previous AI

Pregnancy diagnosis (eg, rectal palpation at 35d post AI)

Non-pregnant

Pregnant

CONFIRMATION OF PREGNANCY (eg, ultrasound scan at 60–65d post AI)

Inject GnRH

Inject Lutealyse or Prelim

Inject GnRH

Inject GnRH

Inject GnRH

Inject Lutealyse or Prelim

Inject GnRH

Insert CIDR

Remove CIDR

Remove CIDR

Insert CIDR

Remove CIDR

Insert CIDR

Remove CIDR

Insert CIDR

Remove CIDR

Insert CIDR

Remove CIDR

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Remove CIDR

Inject GnRH
Ovsync protocol: cycling animals

1. Inject GnRH
2. Inject 5ml Lutalyse
3. Inject GnRH
   - Fixed time AI
     - 72 hours after PG or earlier if observed in oestrus

CIDR+eCG: non-cycling animals

1. Insert CIDR
2. Inject Lutalyse or Prelim
3. Remove CIDR
4. Heat detection and AI
5. Fixed time AI of females not yet seen in heat

- Inject 5ml Lutalyse
- 8 days
- 24 hours
- 56 hours
- 9 days
- 7 days
- 48 hours
- 16-20 hours