

Cow behaviour, observation, and heat detection



TOO EARLY

CAN BE MATED

TOO LATE



COMING ON
Will last 6 to 10 hours

- Will not stand to be ridden
- Smells other cows
- Attempts to ride other cows
- Vulva moist, red, and slightly swollen
- Restless and bellows

STANDING HEAT
Will usually last 6 to 24 hours

- Stands to be ridden
- Nervous and excitable
- Rides other cows
- Heat mount detector activated
- May hold milk
- Vulva moist and red
- Clear mucus discharge

AFTER HEAT

- Will not stand to be ridden
- Smells other cows
- Clear mucus discharge from vulva

Inseminate at first available time after observation of standing heat

Not sure if she's on heat?

Draft her out into the bulling mob after milking and look for further signs of heat.

Record a '?' beside weak or uncertain heats.

Inseminate her if reasonable signs of heat are present and:

- she has no previous matings, or;
- she was last mated more than 20 days ago, or;
- she was mated less than 20 days ago and her last insemination was marked '?'

Warning.

Review heat detection practices if:

- If more than 10% of heats are marked '?'
- If more than 13% of heats are less than 18 days apart