BullSemen.com

SEXED SEMEN GUIDELINES

To maximise the best possible results when using sexed semen the following should be taken into consideration...

Heat Observation

- Recommended for use on maiden heifers only, best results are achieved in this group
- Have a clear heat detection policy within the heifer reproduction management programme, which may involve either of the following
  - Observe heifers for standing heat at least three times daily for a minimum of 15 minutes
  - The use of heat detection aids or technology to support identification of a change in animal behaviour associated with oestrous (heats) is supportive of effective heifer reproduction efficiency
- Record standing heats prior to and during the breeding period accurately to verify regular oestrous cycle length
  - An animal standing to be mounted, the only primary sign of heat, is the best indication of being in heat
  - Secondary signs of heat e.g. increased activity, mounting others, chin resting, vocalisation can be less reliable signs
- If a heifer has not expressed heat prior to or within 30 days of the start of the breeding period present her to a veterinary surgeon for examination
  - Breedings to observed natural heat expression deliver best results, expect reduced success when using hormone intervention or synchronisation programs.

Practical Insemination

- For best results, inseminate 12-24 hours after the onset of increased activity, this is identifiable when using technology. Otherwise inseminate 12-20 hours after a standing heat
- Deposit the semen in the body of the uterus, do not attempt to deposit the semen at the tip of the horn
- Steps should be taken to ensure that inseminations are as stress-free and accurate as possible, use suitable handling facilities where possible

Semen Handling

- Semen straw identification
  - Keep the goblet below the frost line at all times, re-immerse the goblet for 20-30 seconds in the liquid nitrogen the straw is not identifiable with 10 seconds
- Use tweezers to handle straws
- Thaw semen in clean, 35ºC to 37ºC water, for 30 seconds
- Thoroughly dry the straw as water can kill the semen, using a clean paper towel
- Holding the straw by the crimped end, gently shake the straw to move the air bubble towards the crimped end
- Load the pre-warmed AI gun with the straw, plugged end first.Cutting the straw with clean scissors or straw cutter at 90 degrees, 1cm below the crimp
- Place a plastic sheath over the loaded AI rod. Ensure that the straw enters and adapts well inside the green or blue plastic piece of the sheath
- Prime the straw by carefully depress the plunger so that semen advance to the end of the straw but does not escape from the sheath, removing the air bubble from the straw

Maximising conception rates is reliant upon attention to detail.
Following the simple steps above will ensure the best possible success rates.

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