

Key Stages and Goals in a Successful Breeding Season

February

6 weeks before mating start date (MSD)
Approx. 9 March

STEP 1

Bulls should be bought 2-3 months before you intend to use them (early June)

- Source from a clean herd
- Screen for infectious diseases
- Vaccinate with the same programme as the cows



4 weeks before MSD
Approx. 23 March

March

Heat Detection

STEP 2

One month before MSD Identify pool of cows you intend to breed from. This will include:

- Calved cows
- Heifers
- Cows yet to calve

On approx 23 March apply **red tail paint** to all milking cows. Body condition score all cows.



Mating start date key target

70% of herd cycling by MSD

$$\frac{\text{Number of cows with green paint}}{\text{Number of cows with green or red paint}} \times 100 = \%$$

Calculate the % of the herd that is cycling by dividing the number of cows with green paint (cows in heat) by the number of cows with green or red paint (cows available for breeding) and multiply by the figure 100.

STEP 3

Examine tail paint twice weekly.

Record dates when tail paint was removed - this will help predict future heats.

Where red paint is disturbed by mounting apply **green tail paint**.

STEP 4

At mating start date (MSD) calculate the percentage of cows cycling.



April

Mating start date MSD
Approx. 20 April

Heat Detection

Heat Detection

Period of Artificial Insemination Use

Carefully observe cows (at least 30 minutes, 3 times a day) to detect if they are in heat.

STEP 5

Identify cows in heat and use AI - paint inseminated animals with **blue tail paint**

If cows continue to show signs of heat, repeat artificial insemination



