

# 6 THINGS TO GET RIGHT THIS BREEDING SEASON



**MUNSTER BOVINE**

Collectively Improving Farm Life

## 1. HEAT DETECTION

Accurate heat detection will help you achieve a high conception rate while picking up all cows that are bulling and will help you achieve a high submission rate. Tail paint works extremely well when 3 or more cows are on heat together as cows are getting plenty of mounts to rub it off. Scratch cards work extremely well in cows as activity starts to decrease. Scratch cards also work brilliantly in heifers as they lack weight to rub off tail paint.

## 2. WHAT TO DO WITH LATE CALVERS

Late calvers don't have the ability to consume high volumes of grass like cows that calved before Patrick's day. Feeding them extra concentrates or putting them on once-a-day milking from calving (if suitable), will allow these cows retain body condition and cycle quicker. It is well worth discussing with your vet the option to synchronise these cows with a fixed time AI programme. You can easily gain a month.

## 3. BREEDING ENOUGH REPLACEMENTS

Use enough dairy straws to ensure you have sufficient heifers in the parlour in 2025! You need to use 4 to 5 conventional straws per heifer that will be milking in the parlour depending on the fertility performance of the herd. Less straws are required to produce a heifer with sexed semen.

## 4. MAXIMISE THE VALUE OF YOUR BEEF CALVES FOR 2024

As a dairy farmer, an easy calving with short gestation is a huge advantage. However, buyers are becoming more knowledgeable on the potential future value of the calves they are buying. With Munster Bovine's dairy beef sires, you can have the best of both worlds. Choose the breed you want, ensure calving difficulty suits the animal and use bulls with the highest beef value.

## 5. DON'T ASK TOO MUCH OF YOUR STOCK BULL

Are your stock bulls sound and fertile? Having your vet perform a bull breeding soundness exam is a wise investment to confirm they are. A mature bull is capable of serving 1 cow per day. A young bull is capable of less. Keep AIing until the number of cows in heat per day matches the bull power on your farm. Then AI for a further week to allow the bull to settle into his work.

## 6. DON'T FORGET YOUR HEIFERS!

Many herdowners synchronise and AI their heifers or AI for 3 weeks and then release a bull. All the repeats will come together following synchronisation meaning bull power may not be adequate. The best option is to apply scratch cards when the majority of repeats are due, remove the bull and AI. Don't forget to monitor the stock bull with heifers. Record heats and watch for repeats.

