

# 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