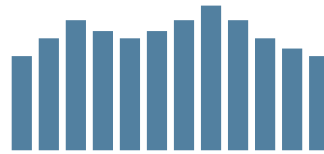


Reproductive performance in AMS

Developed by Sarah Legge,
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1 The importance of good reproductive management and the key concepts behind it will not change!

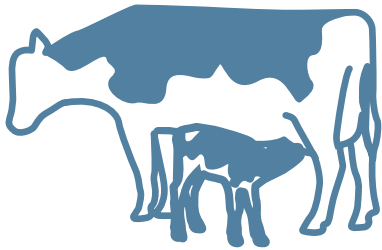
2 You will not see every cow, every day, at set times. You will have to find new ways of identifying and dealing with cows that require your attention! **Good data records and a good sorting area** with access to water, feed, shade and loafing will be key to this!



4 **Keeping cow records updated and accurate** will ensure the system works effectively. Good data will also help you take better decisions.



3 You do not need to change your calving pattern when moving to AMS, but ensure that there is **enough capacity** to milk the maximum target number of cows at peak!

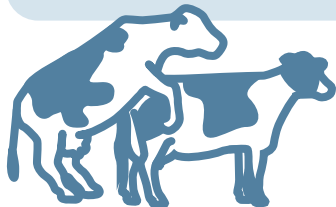


5 **Visual observation will not be your primary way of detecting cows on heat.** It is likely you will now rely on traditional (such as paint or mount detectors) and automated aids (such as activity and rumination meters and inline systems). Still keep an eye on the herd when wondering around the farm!



6 You can set up your system to automatically draft cows that are suspected to be on heat.

7 Although most farmers choose to AI their cows, you can still use a bull in AMS (the collars will work on them too!)



8 **Breeding objectives in AMS** might put a bit more focus on udder conformation, teat placement, milking characteristics as well as feet and legs.

9 **Monitor fresh cows closely** as you would in a conventional dairy. Pay attention to their visitation pattern, milking performance and concentrate intake. Remember most AMS will allow you to dump or divert milk automatically.



10 Make sure you spend some time **training heifers and new animals.** It pays off! Gentle encouragement and patience are key to the process!

Check out our online
AMS training modules:
bit.ly/milkingedgemodules

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