

Pre-mating Checklist

Goal: Get the farm and cows ready for mating

Use this checklist when you are ready to start pre-mating heats. Put it up in the milking parlour as a reminder to keep you on track.

	Task	Completed by date/sign
Farm & Team	Team focus: Move focus to mating using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your farm mating plan at staff meetings • make sure you have plans in place to cover all tasks 	
	Heat detection: Complete staff mating management training. Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • signs of heat • the use of heat detection aids • mating process including recording • task responsibilities • health and safety • best practice animal handling 	
	Non-cyclers: Check with advisor/vet on pre-mating heat and non-cycler management strategy	
	Dates: Confirm start dates and times with vets/semen supplier/AI technicians. If using interventions, or making changes notify all involved early	
	AI and drafting facilities: Ensure area is working smoothly and safely, is suitable and clean, with no chemical fumes in AI area. Point out hazards to staff and those coming on farm	
	Bulls: Review NM* service bull policy and management/handling procedures with staff	
	Finalise heat-detection procedure: Check supply of heat detection aids	
	Animal health plan: Discuss plan with vet	
Cows	Records: Ensure herd records are up to date before mating starts	
	Aids: Schedule heat detection aid application dates and apply pre-mating heat detection aids on time throughout pre mating period	
	Monitor: Start recording pre-mating heats and implement non-cycler plan	
	Body condition: Score herd and act on results to manage thin cows	
	Sort herd: Split herd into mobs if necessary, according to management plan	
	Animal Health: Implement plan including trace element supplementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check at-risk cows and ensure all are treated early • Monitor cow health including lame and mastitis incidence • Treat sick cows promptly • Record health events 	
Bulls	Logistics: Confirm service-bull supply, health status and arrival date	
	Bull management plan: Draw up the plan, including health and safety guidelines for handlers	
	Bull issues: Confirm plan for sourcing replacement bulls if necessary	

*NM = natural mating