

HEAT DETECTION

Achieving excellent AI results during the breeding season is dependant on excellent heat detection

THE METRICS OF HEAT DETECTION

1

EFFICIENCY

Missing too many heats leads to poor efficiency. This can lead to poor submission rate to 1st service or 3 week repeats being missed and rolling onto 6 weeks.

2

ACCURACY

Presenting cows for AI that are not actually in heat will lead to a reduced conception rate.

The key to efficient and accurate heat detection is to identify when a cow is or has been in standing heat. Heat detection aids like tail paint, scratch cards or crayons are extremely useful tools, however they are dependent on the cow or heifer in standing heat being mounted enough times to rub them off.

Table 2

	100 COWHERD		200 COWHERD	
Weeks Breeding	Cows in heat per day	Mounts per Cow per Day	Cows in heat per day	Mounts per Cow per Day
1 st 3 weeks	5	50	10	50+
2 nd 3 weeks	3	27	5	50
3 rd 3 weeks	1 to 2	11	3	27
4 th 3 weeks	1	10	1 to 2	11

Table 2 illustrates how many mounts a cow will receive depending on how many cows are in heat that day. It is quite clear that as the number of animals in heat decreases so does mounting activity, therefore as the breeding season progresses and less cows are in heat per day, heat detection becomes more difficult. How quickly this happens depends on herd size.

FARMOPS BREEDING METRICS

BREEDING METRIC 1

- HEATS EXPECTED PER DAY

FarmOps uses all available information to calculate how many heats are expected each day during the breeding season for both cows and heifers. If you are below target you may be missing heats or there is a problem with cows not cycling. If you are above target you may be drafting cows that are not actually in heat.

BREEDING METRIC 3 - VALID SERVES

A valid serve is a serve where the cow is likely to be truly in heat and therefore has a better chance of conceiving. For example, if a cow is served on day 1, day 10 and day 21 – day 10 is invalid as a cow cycles every 18-24 days. FarmOps generates a target for valid serves and counts your valid and invalid serves as the season progresses. From the number of valid serves, the true heat detection accuracy can be determined.

Poor heat detection efficiency will mean you will be behind target for valid serves. Poor heat detection accuracy will mean you will have excessive invalid serves.

