

STOCK BULL MANAGEMENT

1. Bull Power

Adequate bull power is required for compact calving. One young bull to 10 empty females and one mature bull to 20-30 empty females. Every 3 weeks of AI reduces the bull power required by half.

Maximise bull power where two or more sires are available by rotating bulls 24 hours on and 24 hours off to allow sufficient time for resting and feeding.

2. Calving Difficulty

Easy calving is crucial for maiden heifers and dairy cows calving later in the season with a high BCS. When selecting AI sires for maiden heifers the calving difficulty needs to be categorized as low risk and ideally be <5.0% with a high reliability >90% for dairy heifers.

Stock bulls have a lower reliability figure and therefore carry more risk.

3. Purchase in Advance

Purchase bulls up to two months in advance of when they are required to allow for acclimatization, disease testing and vaccination. Vaccinate and dose bulls with whatever the herd is being vaccinated and dosed for.

4. Nutritional & Relocation Stress

Young bulls need extra energy as they are still growing. They expend more energy than older bulls as they do more courting. Bulls that rapidly lose weight (greater than 50Kg) over a short period go subfertile. Young bulls need to be fed in their first season. If a young bull loses more than 50Kgs in weight or has reduced libido get him fertility tested to ensure he has not gone infertile since his last fertility test.

5. Footbathe Bull on Arrival

Footbathe all bulls on arrival to avoid the introduction of Mortellaro. Pair him with another animal of similar or smaller size for company initially. The bull will be more relaxed and easier to handle.

6. Fertility Tested and Mating

Get your bull fertility tested by your vet.

Train him in a small paddock or a well bedded pen by introducing a small female fully on standing heat. Repeat this exercise until he can mate confidently. Ensure a young bull can mate prior to leaving him run with females otherwise you may lose 3 weeks.



7. Lamé and Injured Bulls

Lamé and injured bulls need to be rested and treated, some may not recover for the season. If the bull has a high temperature for a period of time or goes lamé retest his fertility before he resumes mating as depending on the insult it can take him a full 6-12 weeks to recover.

6. Monitor

Bulls need to be monitored throughout the season, either with a chinball on him or scratch cards and tail paint on the females.

Monitor repeats from synchronisation and it may be prudent to AI for the 4-5 days that they are occurring. Watch for low conception rates whereby an increased number of repeats are presented to the bull.

Avoid the 'Lull' in calving after insemination finishes.

Inseminate for the 1st 10 to 14 days of the bull being released and each day where there are 2 or more cows on heat per bull.

Bulls need time to settle into a routine.



Number of Bulls Required to achieve a high Pregnancy Rate Depending on Herd Size and Length of AI Period

	120 cows	250 cows
3 weeks AI 90% submission rate. Number of empty cows	61 empty cows	126 empty cows
Number of bulls required with 3 weeks AI	3 Mature bulls	6 Mature Bulls
6 weeks AI 90% submission rate. Number of empty cows	31 empty cows	64 empty cows
Number of bulls required with 6 weeks AI	2 Mature or 1 Young & 1 Mature Bull	3 Mature Bulls or 2 Mature & 1 Young bull

FARMOPS

During the breeding season, FarmOps is calculating the number of potentially empty cows or heifers in the herd. From this calculation it displays the number of mature stock bulls you require to service these cows and ensure none are missed. Keep AI ing until this number matches the number of bulls available for breeding.