

Heat Detection Protocol

Accurate heat detection, correct timing of insemination and minimal stress at service are more important when inseminating ABS Sexation than for conventional semen.

1. Heat observation

- ❑ Observe heifers for standing heat at least three times daily, for a minimum of 15 minutes.
- ❑ Observations should preferably take place outside routine tasks i.e. not during scraping out or milking.
- ❑ Record standing heats accurately to verify regular oestrous cycle length. Heifers with abnormal cycle lengths will be less fertile.
- ❑ Alternatively, consider using RMS, a specialist fertility service offered by Genus ABS, whereby a qualified RMS technician takes on responsibility for daily heat detection.



- ❑ Heat detection aids such as bulling beacons will prove useful in identifying heifers in heat.
- ❑ Other signs of oestrous e.g. mounting, chin resting, vocalisation can be less reliable signs of heat. It is advised to use conventional semen to serve these animals.
- ❑ Heat synchronisation programmes should only be used in conjunction with good heat detection. Only use ABS Sexation where natural heats have been observed.

Time of insemination

❑ ABS Sexation is best inseminated 12 hours after the onset of oestrus. If unsure of when onset occurred, use conventional semen where research has proven that time of AI does not effect conception rates.

❑ It is recommended that heifers seen bulling significantly before or after the recommended 12 hour period should be served with conventional semen.

2. The service period

Steps should be taken to ensure that inseminations are as stress free and accurate as possible.

❑ Heifers should be suitably restrained so that they cannot move forwards, backwards or sideways.



- ❑ A proper service area or crush is ideal.
- ❑ Heifers put forward for service should be moved quietly to the service area and kept in pairs, or in a small groups, to reduce stress.
- ❑ We **strongly advise** that insemination of ABS Sexation semen are carried out by a Genus ABS qualified technician.

Due to the process undertaken to sex semen, ABS Sexation is much more fragile than conventional semen. The highest standards of AI insemination are crucial to its success.