

Clémence's Column

Artificial insemination

There are many benefits to practicing artificial insemination for example access to a wide selection of high genetic quality bulls and can improve your herd.

Still, you need to be able to detect when the cow is in heat and to do the insemination at the right time to be successful.

A female to be inseminated should be near the barn and not in the presence of a bull because the bull is going to serve the cow before you can do the insemination. The bull serves the cow when she lets him climb her because the sperm does not reach the uterus while the inseminator will place the sperm into the uterus when the cow is at the end of the heat cycle. There is sometimes blood flow 24 to 36 hours after insemination it is a sign that there was ovulation, so a good chance to have succeeded.

The success of artificial insemination requires a good sense of observation, the best time to observe is at dawn in the morning and dusk in the evening. Initially, the cow is restless, it attempts to mount other cows, vulva wet and pink. When the vulva becomes reddish and you can see a clear and stringy mucus this is the only true sign of heat that can last from 6-20 hours.

If she allows to be climbed in the early morning you inseminate the same evening, if she allows to be climbed in the afternoon or evening you inseminate the next morning. If you have difficulty detecting when the cow is in heat, there are hormones Estrumate or Lutalyse that can be injected to bring the cow in heat and do the insemination.

Implants are also an option. For more information about this, please consult your veterinarian.

The association should place an order of French bull semen soon. Buy yourself some to inseminate your best cows, the results will surprise you.

Wishing you success

Sincerely Clémence Landry

In the next issue, I will write about "Vaccinating your Animals".

Translated by Maureen Landry