

Insemination and Calving Unit Objectives – By the end of this unit, students will be able to...

- Explain the difference between insemination and conception.
- Identify the window of time in which a cow should be bred after calving.
- Determine when it is appropriate to breed a cow by recognizing the signs of a cow in heat.
- Summarize the function of each of the following heat detection aids: heat expectancy chart, mount detection aid, tailhead markings, heat detector animals, and pedometers.
- Identify when insemination should occur based on when a cow is seen in heat.
- Summarize the purpose, function, use, and limitations of the following pregnancy detection methods: rectal palpation, ultrasounds, and blood testing.
- Compare and contrast the benefits and drawbacks of twinning in cattle.
- Summarize and define each of the following terms: dry period, lactation, gestation, and mastitis.
- Summarize the steps necessary to dry off a cow and prevent mastitis during or after the dry period.
- Diagnose a case of mastitis based on its symptoms.
- Diagnose whether or not a cow is about to calve based on her symptoms.
- Summarize the signs of normal calving vs. abnormal calving and diagnose whether or not human intervention is necessary.
- Summarize and explain the steps required to conduct a physical exam on a cow while she is calving.
- List the situations in which human intervention during calving will always be necessary.
- Explain the proper intervention methods during the following scenarios: upside down calf, backwards calf, calf with a head/leg bent backwards, calf that is positioned correctly but has not made any progress in at least 30 minutes.
- Summarize how to manually dilate the cervix of a cow to aid in calving.
- Demonstrate how to properly utilize and apply calving chains in order to assist with cases of dystocia.
- Demonstrate how to properly care for the cow and the calf after calving in order to ensure maximal health and prevent disease and infection.