

# BREEDING PLAN WORKSHEET

AUGUST 2009



Australian  
Dairy Herd  
Improvement  
Scheme

**YOUR BREEDING OBJECTIVE** identifies the traits you require to improve the profitability of your herd. Your objective will stay relatively constant over a number of years. However, there are still decisions that need to be made on an annual basis. This worksheet will help you apply your breeding objective to an annual breeding plan.

A **BREEDING PLAN** is an annual record of the practical tasks you need to complete to achieve your breeding objective. An effective breeding plan is practical, cost effective and manages risk.

Breeding Plan for ..... Year .....

My SELECTABULL breeding objective is to increase farm profit by	Circle one	
	More	Less
	More	Less
	More	Less
	More	Less
	More	Less

## Breed Selection

I am going to source bulls from this breed(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Holstein	<input type="checkbox"/> Red Breeds	<input type="checkbox"/> Brown Swiss
<input type="checkbox"/> Jersey	<input type="checkbox"/> Guernsey	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Breeds

To find the best bulls available for your breeding program consider using Selectabull on the ADHIS website.



Selectabull is a web-based selection tool that lets you customise your breeding objective and allows you to search and rank all publishable bulls according to your breeding objective.

Selectabull is a free service, all you have to do is register on the ADHIS website. There is a 'How to use Selectabull' manual on the website or you could contact your local re-seller or ADHIS.

# How many doses to buy

**THE** number of doses you need depends on your herd size, the length of your AI joining period, your 3-week submission rate and conception rate. You can use the following table to help you calculate your semen requirements. Your InCalf Fertility Focus Report, available from your local herd recording centre, can help you fine-tune your requirements.

Number of doses for the herd		
For 1 round of AI you need	$0.86 \times \text{Number of cows} =$	(A)
For 2 rounds of AI you need	$1.40 \times \text{Number of cows} =$	
25% Progeny Test	Number of progeny test doses $0.25 \times \text{Number of cows} =$	(B)
For 1 round of AI for maiden heifers you need	$1 \times \text{Number of heifers} =$	(C)
For 2 rounds of AI for maiden heifers you need	$1.3 \times \text{Number of heifers} =$	
	Number of proven doses Doses for cows (A) – PT doses (B) + Doses for heifers (C) =	(D)
<i>This table uses 3-week submission and conception rates achieved by Top Farmers, the InCalf Book for Dairy Farmers.</i>		

## Bull Selection

**START** at the top of the bull list and highlight bulls that:

- meet your breeding objective – SELECTABULL will do this for you.
- have pedigrees that are different to those extensively used in your herd
- are within your budget

Stop when you have a list of 4 to 10 bulls. Using a team of bulls is a good risk management practice.

You can find top bull lists and SELECTABULL by going to [www.adhis.com.au](http://www.adhis.com.au).

Select bulls that you will use over your heifers.

- Use AI bulls that meet your breeding objectives over your maiden heifers to assist you in achieving faster genetic gain.
- Use bulls to minimise the number of calvings needing assistance. For maiden Holstein heifers, Jerseys are the lowest risk bulls. If you wish to use Holstein bulls over Holstein heifers, find bulls that meet your breeding objectives and are in the Top 10% for Calving Ease ABV – SELECTABULL will do this for you.

### \$ Price Check \$

My semen budget is \$..... +gst

Bull list (milkers)	Price	Dose
Progeny test		

Bull list (heifers)	Price	Dose

# Using the bull team in your herd

**NOW** that you have decided which bulls to use, it's time to do a little match making. There are several approaches you can take. Each approach will achieve genetic progress so it comes down to which one will be most efficient for your farm.

## 1. Bull-of-the-day

- Use one bull at a time changing only when all doses have been used.

## 2. Bull-of-the-day with inbreeding check.

- Prior to joining, obtain an inbreeding report from your farm management software or herd improvement centre.
- Use one bull at a time except when the inbreeding report eliminates the bull as a match over a particular cow.

## 3. Corrective mating program

- Commercial corrective mating programs are available that make recommendations based on the information you supply from herd test records or a combination of herd test records and visual assessments of each cow. Mating programs are best implemented well before joining begins.
- The program will generate a shed report that identifies the preferred bull(s) for each cow.
- Mating programs vary. However, they will usually aim to correct particular weaknesses in a cow by using a bull that is strong in those areas. These programs will also help you avoid inbreeding.
- Generally, these programs do not include progeny test bulls. Therefore, you will need to use another method to distribute PT semen. For example, use all PT in the first week or two of mating or use PT on all cows calved for the second time.

My mating system	Select one
Bull of the day	
Bull of the day with Inbreeding Check from _____ (record company or software program you will use)	
Corrective mating program from _____ (record company or software you will use)	



# Getting ready for AI

**NOW** that the bull team is in place, it's time to do a final check to ensure you are ready for joining. This table will help you remember the final details.

My mating start date is: .....

Semen delivery date ..... Supplier .....

Who is doing the AI?  DIY  Technician

	Action Required	By Whom	By When
If the semen is to be stored on farm, I have ensured adequate liquid nitrogen levels are in the AI tank.			
I have checked the AI facilities to ensure they are safe and workable.			
I plan to use an AI technician and have arranged for the technician to familiarise themselves with the facilities.			
If I plan to perform the inseminations I have completed a self-assessment of my AI procedures (click here <a href="http://www.incalf.com.au">www.incalf.com.au</a> )			
I have stocked up on breeding supplies, including heat detection aids.			
I have recently obtained an InCalf Fertility Focus Report and identified any weaknesses and sought help from an adviser.			
To find out more about getting ready for AI, talk to an InCalf trained adviser or go to Chapter 11 of 'The Incalf Book for Dairyfarmers', available at <a href="http://www.incalf.com.au">www.incalf.com.au</a> (pages 108-9).			

*Adapted from the InCalf Book for Dairy Farmers*

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Australian Dairy Herd Improvement Scheme

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