FAQs about Heat Checking your cows

Heat Checking is the most important part of AIing your cows! That means you the owner have the biggest responsibility in the success of getting your cow pregnant. Your other responsibilities include proper nutrition(BCS 4-6), minerals and vaccination program.

Checking for heat-

Cows go into heat or estrus every 18-21 days. Heifers are the ones that usually have a shorter estrous cycle. The cheapest method for heat/estrus detection is watching for mounting behavior. The cow that is STANDING TO BE MOUNTED is the one in heat. Even pregnant cows will “ride” other cows in heat. Secondary

If you want to breed your cow based off of natural heat YOU MUST check your cows twice a day in the morning and evening. Try to do it when the temperature is optimal and it isn’t feeding time. Estrotect stickers are a huge help in identifying cows in heat but you still must check them twice a day.

If you catch your cow in heat please call me right away! I need time to plan you into the day. The optimal time to breed is actually 8-16 hours after standing heat. SO if you find her in the morning its best to breed that evening. If you find her in the evening I will come out the next morning!

After the heat- 2-3 days after heat cows may exhibit a bloody mucus discharge. It is referred to as metestrus bleeding or “bleeding off”. All this means is that the cow ovulated about 2-3 days earlier. It does not mean that conception failed. If you have been watching for heat then you can mark your calender for 18 days

There is a heat detection AID called an Estrotect patch. It is like a lottery ticket sticker that goes on top of the cows spine/hip area. When other cows jump on and “ride” the cow in heat it scratches off the grey film revealing the bright orange color. The cows tail or tree branches may scratch it some but when she is in heat it will be completely scratched off and “burnished” orange or pink. The cost of patches are $1.50

Semen- I carry many of the bulls listed in the Select Sires catalog (selectsiresbeef.com). However I do not have them all. I am sure we can find a bull I do have that will fit your needs. (calving ease, carcass traits etc) If there is a particular bull you are interested in I need at least 2 weeks (more is better) to have that bull shipped in. I do also keep on hand conventional and sexed jersey as well as some of the other dairy breeds. I also carry a fair number of “rare” breed bulls as well as some miniature breeds.