

August 16, 2005

HEAT DETECTION PROTOCOL

Heat detection will involve observation of cows and review of Afimilk® activity records.

Observation: Employees should always watch for signs of heat while working around cows and heifers. However, there are specific times during the day when there are dedicated times for heat detection. They are as follows:

1. **Milking time** – moving cows to and from parlor.
2. **Tie-stall cows** – observe cows on asphalt lot as soon as they leave the tie-stall barn for 30 continuous minutes.
3. ***High production group** – every day move cows from free-stall barn to dirt lot and observe continuously for heat between 10:00 and 10:30 a.m.
4. ***2-year-old group** - every day move animals to dirt lot and observe continuously for heat between 10:30 and 11:00 a.m.
5. **Virgin heifers** – every day the person moving animals during scraping in the a.m. and p.m. should observe them for heat.
6. **Night check** – each evening observe animals in cow free-stall barn and heifer barn.

The cow number and a heat detection code are recorded daily in the herdsman's office. The codes are as follows:

Code 1	Mucus, no activity
Code 2	Mucus or alert, active but not seen standing
Code 3	Mounting (Riding)
Code 4	Raw tailhead but not seen standing

In dairy comp 305, heatcheck code 1,2,3,4 is A.

Code 5	Active and standing to be mounted
Code 6	Standing to be mounted.

In dairy comp 305, heatcheck code 5,6 is B.

*** During the months of May through August, the high group and 2 year olds will go to a dirt lot right after milking. Heat detection will be approximately 30 minutes per group and will normally be completed before 8:00 a.m.**

Monitoring Activity: Supervisors and weekend personnel will review the following reports.

1. **Insemination report** – all animals are eligible to breed. Observe animal(s) closely for signs of heat during the next heat detection period.
2. **Excessive activity report (suspected heat list)** – print this list after each milking. Pregnant (P), No Breed (E) and not eligible to breed (blank space) cows with excessive activity are listed.

- a. For cows with a blank space and with excessive activity, record “in heat” so as to anticipate her next eligible to be bred heat.
- b. For pregnant cows with excessive activity investigate for possible reasons for the ↑ activity. Access **Lactation graph** and examine their activity across lactation and note interval from date determined pregnant. If there was no possible explanation for a change in her routine activity then she should be put on list to recheck for pregnancy.

Record keeping:

1. **Visually observed heats:** record time, date and name of individual observing heat in logbook. If heat detection was not performed at the times listed above the reason must be recorded in the logbook.
2. **Monitor activity-Afimilk:** supervisor or weekend personnel will initial the daily Insemination report and Excessive Activity report and list what action was taken on each animal.

Each week a report of animals coded “NO BRED” will be placed by the semen tank to avoid a “NO BRED” animal from being inseminated.