

GOALS & PLANS FOR THE BREEDING SEASON

GOALS

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Maintain 82% of the current 2020 milking herd for the 2021 season and have a high 6 week calving rate.	Have all the maiden heifers calving in February 2021.	Breed an adequate number of 2021 born replacements from the highest genetic merit cows and the highest panel of high genetic merit sires and have them born in Feb.	Maximise calf value in Spring 2021 by selecting the highest Beef Value beef sires within your calving range for the maidens, 1st calvers, cows and the mature cows.

PLANNING THE SEASON - EXAMPLE 100 COWS AND 20 MAIDENS

Decide calving date 2021 - 1st Feb	Mon 27th April Mating Start Date (MSD)
How many replacements do I require?	18-20% for maintenance - 20 heifers required
How many dairy straws do I need to use? Need to allow for bull calves and issues from birth to entry to Parlour.	20 X 4.5 = 90 Dairy Straws required
How many Dairy Straws will I use on my Maidens?	20 - 1 straw on each heifer
How many Dairy straws do I need to use on my cows? I had 90 cows calved prior to 17th March - Calved 42 days	70 of the best cows out of the 100 cows to breed the replacements from to calve in February 2021
Select the bottom 20 poor performers of the 90 cows calved prior to 17th March & the late calvers for Beef Straws	30 out of the 100 cows selected to breed to Beef and the repeats from the 70 cows bred to dairy after the 1st 4 weeks.

PRE-BREEDING



- Complete vaccinations for cows and heifers.
- Monitor Bulk Milk to ensure winter dosing programme was effective & Dung sample heifers.
- BCS cows and ensure they are fully fed and put cows <2.75 BCS on once a day milking (OAD).
- All cows calving after 1st April that you wish to retain for 2021 should be put on once a day milking (OAD).
- Weigh Heifers, put them to grass a minimum of 4 weeks pre breeding - supplementary feeding to those under target.
- Have cows scanned or metri checked and the usual suspects examined and treated by your vet 3 weeks before MSD mating start date.
- Apply heat detection aids to cows 3 weeks before MSD mating start date.
- On MSD - Cows not detected in heat calved 35 days and additional usual suspects should be examined by your Vet.

MONITORING AND KEY ACTION DATES DURING THE BREEDING SEASON

- EXAMPLE HERD 100 COWS 20 MAIDENS

DATES	AIM	Number on Heat/ Day	Example Outcome	Number In calf	
1st 3 weeks of breeding	27th Apr - 18th May Calving 1st Feb to 25th Feb 2021	90 out of 100 cows bred 20 out of 20 Heifers bred	4-5 Cows a day on heat 1 Maiden Heifer a day on heat	80 out of 100 Cows bred All 20 Heifers Bred following synchronization	44 Cows In calf & 17 Heifers
Actions 18th May - All cows calved 35 days not bred drafted, examined by your Vet and synchronized for fixed timed AI. OAD for late calvers and cows <2.75 BCS not bred. The next 3 weeks key to maximise 6 week calving rate.					
2nd 3 weeks of breeding	18th May - 8th June Calving 25th Feb to 18th March 2021	Heat activity is halved- Increase Intensity of observation. Keep applying Aids.	2/Day Cows Watch repeats in cows and heifers especially the synchronised ones.	15 Synchronised Cows Bred (actions 18th May) 36 Repeats in Cows Bred 3 Heifer repeats Bred	72 cows In calf & 20 Heifers
Actions 8th June - All cows calved 35 days not bred drafted, examined by your Vet and synchronized for fixed timed AI. Early pregnancies scanned. OAD for late calvers. The next 3 weeks key to reduce empty rate.					
3rd 3 weeks of breeding	8th June to 29th June Calving 18th March to 8th April 2021	Heat activity is reduced further. A Vasectomized Bull is Key.	1/Day Cows.	5 Synchronised Cows Bred (actions 8th June) 23 Repeats in Cows Bred	87 Cows incalf and 20 heifers
Actions 29th June - All cows calved 35 days not bred drafted, examined by your Vet and synchronized for fixed timed AI. Early pregnancies scanned. Bulls fertility tested. The next 3 weeks key to reduce empty rate.					
4th 3 weeks of breeding	29th June to 20th July	Bulls released and monitored. Ensure bulls can serve comfortably before being released with cows.		13 Repeats in Cows Bred	94 Cows incalf and 20 heifers incalf