

TAIL PAINT



Tail painting is an excellent cost effective, convenient way of heat detecting cows early in the season.

	100 COW HERD		200 COW HERD	
Weeks Breeding	Cows in heat per day	Mounts per Cow per Day	Cows in heat per day	Mounts per Cow per Day
1 st 3 weeks	5	50	10	50+
2 nd 3 weeks	2-3	27	5	50
3 rd 3 weeks	1-2	11	2-3	27
4 th 3 weeks	1	10	1-2	11

Tail paint works well in cows when there are 3 or more cows on heat per day to rub it off. In a 100 cow herd it is effective for 6 weeks if the herd is already calving compactly, otherwise use it for the 1st 3 weeks and then switch to scratch cards, in a 200-cow herd it can be effective for 9 weeks if calving compactly. It does not work as well in heifers as they are not heavy enough to rub it off each other's rumps.

Clip the hair off the rump prior to the application of tail paint. This allows the paint to be more easily removed at mounting. And it reduces the layers of paint building up as the season progresses making it difficult to interpret. Apply paint on a dry day and to dry skin.

TAIL PAINT GUIDELINES:

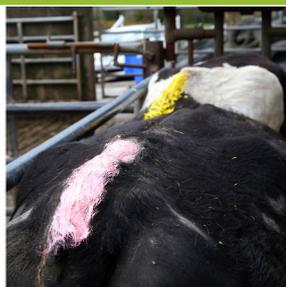
1

Clip rumps prior to applying paint. Paint will come off easier and layering will be minimized



2

These cows have not coated yet and the hair will hold the paint leading to layering later on



3

These cows have been clipped and the paint will be removed easier. Leading to less layering of paint later on. 9 x 1 inch strip of paint is ideal



4

Paint well cleaned off after being on heat



5

Fils tail paint product (€16 per litre).



6

Paint in 2.5 litre cans can be applied by brush, glove or radiator roller in the pit (€18 for 2.5 litres)



TOP TIPS

Top up twice a week and more often in wet weather.

On the day of insemination put a band of tail paint on the cows back that will not be rubbed off by mounting. This will indicate the cows that have been served and will avoid drafting them the following morning for insemination. One day repeats may reduce conception rates.

As the season moves on if there is a lot of layers of paint building up - change the colour completely. If you were using blue all along - ignore the blue paint now as it will not come off cleanly. Paint with a different colour for example yellow and if the yellow is rubbed off the cow is in heat even though the blue is still present.