FACT SHEET
Artificial Insemination

INTRODUCTION

ADOPTED FROM INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FEDERATION

Since the domestication of cattle for milk and meat purposes more than 6,000 years ago, farmers have used reproductive technology to improve their cattle. In the beginning, farmers selected a desired male to mate with their cattle for each successive generation of animals. Today, dairy farmers use a variety of reproductive technologies like artificial insemination (AI) to perpetuate the next generation of cattle to enhance milk quality and productivity, improve animal health and welfare, and increase the sustainability of the dairy industry. AI is the most widely used reproductive technology in the world.

BENEFITS OF ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

- It is safer than natural breeding for both the cows and humans. Bulls can be aggressive and dangerous to be around. In addition, they are often larger than females which can lead to injury during natural conception.

- AI allows farmers to keep better track of conception and calving dates, which in-turn allows them to formulate specific diets that will be optimal for the cow's needs.

- Improved genetics through a more diverse range of bulls to choose from [1]

- If appropriate semen harvesting and handling processes are followed, it can lead to decreased disease transmission [1]

- Eliminate bulls with poor male fertility and bulls being carriers of inheritable diseases

- Decreased inbreeding [1]

- Increased calving ease through access to appropriate calving ease bulls [1]

REFERENCES

1. Moore, S., & Hasler, J. (2017). A 100-Year Review: Reproductive technologies in dairy science. *Journal of Dairy Science, 100*(12), 10314-10331. doi:10.3168/jds.2017-13138

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