

## Donor Selection and Management for Bovine IVF (OPU)

### Donor Selection and Assessment

- \* Maiden heifers need to be cycling and well grown
- \* Any recently calved donor animal should be cycling normally again. Ideally, at least two standing heats should have been observed post calving with a normal interval between heats. Dairy animals should be past peak lactation and at least 70 days post calving to yield best results
- \* IVF is often successful where conventional flushing is not possible or has failed e.g. with pregnant animals, older animals or those with a poor reproductive history
- \* Animals that are between 2 and 5 months in calf make good IVF donors
- \* If available, consider the use of genomic testing (e.g. Clarifide) to select donors on health & fertility traits as well as production & type
- \* You might also ask your own vet to assess the following:
  - Is it possible to grab each ovary through the rectal wall and retract it above the pelvic brim?
  - Are there any previously undiagnosed cystic conditions?
  - Is the animal pregnant? If so, how far in calf is she?
  - Does the animal have a reasonable follicular count?



### Donor Management

- \* Ensure that donor animals are managed in a stable group free of environmental and treatment stress for a period of at least three months prior to collection. Avoid collecting around turnout and housing if possible
- \* Animals should not be too thin or too fat and should not be losing weight. Diets should be low in protein e.g. haylage/silage/straw supplemented with low protein concentrate
- \* Known deficiencies in vitamins, minerals or trace elements should be corrected in consultation with your veterinarian or feed advisor at least six weeks before collection is planned
- \* Avoid routine treatments such as vaccinations, worming and foot trimming during programming