

Recipient Selection and Management for Embryo Transfer

Recipient Selection

- * Maiden heifers tend to give the best pregnancy rates, especially in dairy herds
- * Heifers should be cycling regularly, be well grown and have a reasonable expectation of a natural calving
- * Young cows should be considered for large beef breeds or where sires with a poor index for calving ease have been used
- * Select animals without any history of reproductive problems
- * Do not select any animal that has failed to hold on three previous occasions
- * Ensure that any recently calved animal is past peak lactation & is at least 70 days post calving. Within reason, the longer calved she is the better, so long as she is not gaining too much condition
- * Use only sound, healthy animals with no recent mastitis or infectious disease history. If you do not know the status of bought in recipient animals, quarantine the group and ask your veterinarian to test and/or vaccinate for IBR, Leptospirosis, Johnes, and BVD
- * Ask your veterinarian to scan for ovarian issues, uterine adhesions and pregnancy



Recipient Management

- * Make sure recipient management groups remain stable and settled for six weeks prior to transfer and six weeks after transfer
- * Avoid routine treatments such as worming, vaccinations, fly treatments & foot trimming for six weeks prior to transfer and six weeks after transfer
- * If it is at all possible, manage recipients indoors and near to handling systems
- * Animals should be slowly gaining weight and be not too thin or too fat. Diets should be low in protein e.g. haylage/silage/straw supplemented with low protein concentrate
- * Known deficiencies in vitamins or minerals should be corrected in consultation with your veterinarian or feed advisor at least six weeks before transfer

Recipient Selection and Management for Embryo Transfer

General Recommendations

- * If you are synchronising recipients, we advise that you synchronise more than are required to avoid disappointment on transfer day if some in the group are rejected at scanning
- * Reliable heat detection is critical to success. Observe the group for 3 x 20 minutes/day looking for riding behaviour, bulling slime, marks on their sides & changes in eating patterns and social behaviour. Once an animal has been seen standing to be mounted, record the time & ID. The early bullers should receive the most mature embryos
- * We recommend that you PD a little later than for AI or natural service. This avoids the potential for disappointment if there is early embryo loss

