

OWL FARM STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

HEAT DETECTION

Objectives/purpose

To ensure that:

- cows in heat are drafted out for insemination, and
- staff use their time efficiently and effectively.

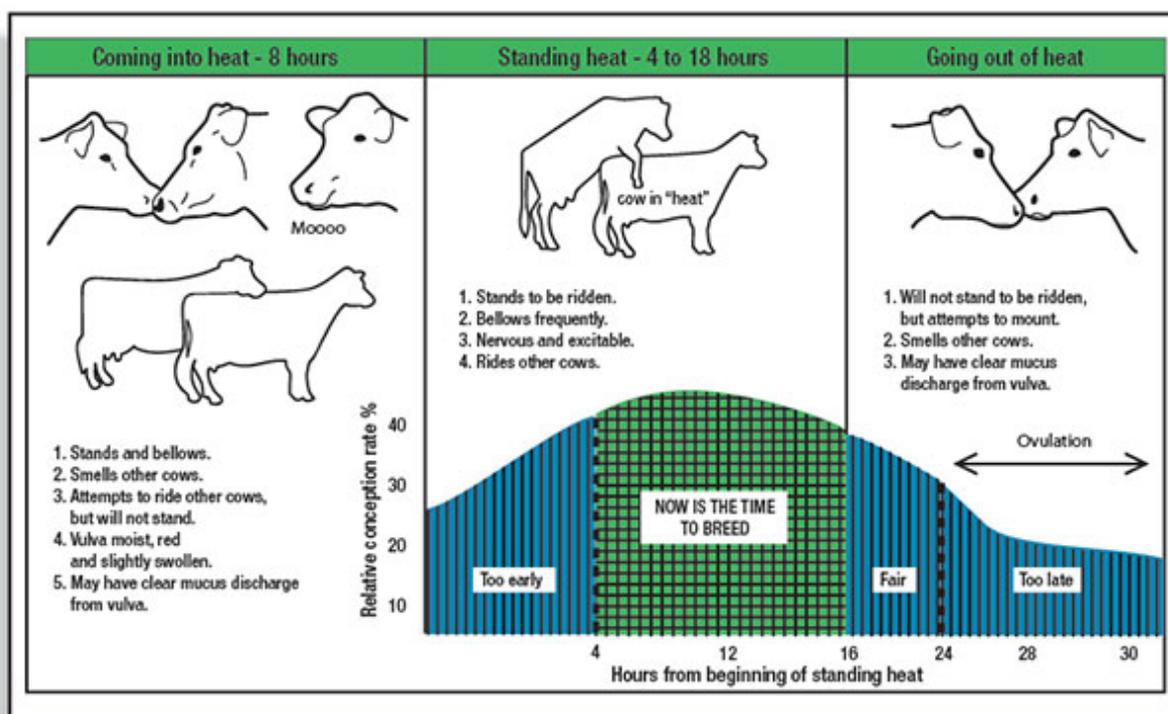
Person in charge

If you have any queries about this SOP consult with the Farm Manager.

Steps

The signs of heat are:

- Standing still so other cows can ride them, or riding other cows.
- Hair rubbed off the top of their tail, wear and tear to the tail paint or Kamar.
- Behaving differently from normal: restless and nervous, changing their normal position in the herd e.g. coming into the shed at a different time or walking from the paddock in a different position in the herd from normal.
- May stand with back arched and tail in the air.
- Moist, red vulva, clear discharge.



1. Spend time observing the herd to look for cows on heat forming sexually active groups (SAGs) when you are going past or locking them away in their paddock, and when they are standing on the yard during milking (you can use the mirror to see cows on the yard).



2. Check their tails for signs of rubbed paint or to see if the detection patch has been activated. To see some example photos of what this looks like go to the [Reading Heat Detection Aids](#) page on the DairyNZ website: www.dairynz.co.nz, or watch their videos about heat detection.
3. Observe cows on side yard and in the side paddock during milking.
4. Draft out any cows on heat at milking by entering their details into Protrack (see SOP Using Protrack).

Notes

- If in doubt, draft her out. If you are unsure if a cow is in heat, or think she may be in heat, draft her out so she can be checked.
- DairyNZ Youtube videos:
 - [Heat detection – signs to look for in the paddock](#)
 - [How to read heat detection aids](#)