

Fowler Reproductive Services

Let me help you with your cattle breeding program.

If you would like to reduce your breeding cost (bull cost) and improve genetics and calf prices, I can help you with estrus synchronization and an artificial insemination program. A problem many cattle operations face is purchasing and maintaining their bull year a round. With an artificial insemination program you can reduce or eliminate the problem of maintaining this bull all year and the hassle of replacing this bull every few years and at the same time improve genetics. You can reduce the number of bulls needed or in some cases you can totally eliminate the need of a bull. There are many options that can be helpful to you.

Advantages:

- Synchronized calving season
 - Improve nutrition
 - Improve vaccination response
 - Reduce handling problems
 - More marking options
 - Reduce freight cost
 - Increase prices
- Improve genetics
 - Higher quality bulls at lower cost
 - Different sires in one pasture
- Reduce bull cost
 - Reduce the maintenance cost of a bull year round
 - Reduces problems caused by bulls
 - Reduces vet bills

Small operations:

A problem many small cattle operations face is purchasing and maintaining there bulls year a round. In most cases the rancher buys a bull turns him in the pasture and leaves him there until time comes to replace him or until he gets tired of getting him out of the neighbors pasture and decides to get a new bull. The calves are born at anytime of the year with little control over breeding dates.

With a synchronized breeding season you can plan when your cows will calve making them more manageable and reduce feed cost. For example, if you have one cow that has a 4 month old calve and one that is dry and its winter time and you have to supplement the feed, you will have to over feed the dry cow in order to meet the requirements of the lactating cow. If all of the cows are dry they may require very little supplement during some times of the year and calving can be planned around pasture growth to reduce feed cost.

If your calves are close the same age then their vaccination needs are also the same. It is much easier to vaccinate all of them at once without having to pen them each time some come of age or not to vaccinate them at all which can result in deaths and losses. This goes hand in hand with handling. As you know if you have some calves that are past weaning age but at the same time you have a few newborn calves in the pasture, you may have some problems and injuries pinning and sorting the cattle.

This will also give you more marketing options. In the past you would most likely gather you calves several times though the year, load them a few at a time took them a long distance to an auction barn where the calves are standing there all day losing weight, auctioned off and then weighed. The cost per head just to take them to the market has increased every year while cattle price sometimes get higher but sometimes get cheaper. With more calves born at the same time you can take them in one load or sale them private treaty to a buyer that will come to you and haul them at no cost to you and will less weight loss. The calves not only being about the same age and weight but out of top sires will help you get a better price for your calves. Buyers like knowing that the group of calves for sale have been vaccinated at a timely manner, have records of birth dates, out of proven genetics and haven't been stressed at a sale barn.

Genetics will be a large advantage that you will notice with an artificial insemination program. It will allow you to breed to some of the top proven genetics in the country without the cost of purchasing and maintaining these bulls. You will also be able to have multiple sires in any pasture. For instance you want you heifers born to a low birth weight bull and your mature cows you may want them bred to a bull with more performance which usually comes with higher birth weights. One cow you may want bred to a red bull while one you may want bred to a black bull. There are so many options that come available to you at this point.

An artificial insemination program will reduce the number of bulls required. If in the past you bred one bull to every 20-25 cows and you are running more than 40 cows in on pasture you can now use one bull for every 40-80 cows. This will not only reduce to cost of having to feed more bulls all year but also reduce the injuries and problems cause with multiple bulls in on herd. In small herds you may reduce the need for a bull at all. As we have all notice when a bull has nothing to breed he goes looking and it maybe in our neighbors pasture.

Large operations:

Many of the advantages are the same as for a small breeder but large ranches can also reduce breeding cost with large numbers, reduce semen cost by using there own sires or price breaks for large number. You may also improve weaning weights and have more marketing options.

The biggest advantage is in genetics. If you purchase a young bull, pay a lot for him or even if you raised a top young sire, you want to get as many calves out of him as you can as soon as you can without injury to you investment. I recommend having semen

collected out of this bull and use him on as many cows as you would like the first year maybe before he is old enough to breed many cows. It is relatively inexpensive to have semen collected and frozen on bulls which will reduce your cost of an AI program over purchasing semen. You can of course still purchase semen on most of the top sires for a reasonable cost and use multiple sires in each herd.

In the past semen has been available to large ranches at no cost as long as they will give the owner options to purchase these calves from them. The options of course vary from one to the other but it is something worth looking into.

As we all know bulls cost money and more bull cost more money and cause more problems. By reducing the number of bulls that are required will cut cost. An AI program can reduce the number of sire in each pasture which will reduce the number of injuries and increase performance of your bulls. For example if you have a cow herd of 100 cows and you now run 3-5 bulls in this herd, the bulls usually fight and injuries are definite. The bulls waist energy fighting and not breeding making them less efficient. Therefore if you synchronized your cows and AI'ed them and the followed up with only two bulls the cost and problems will be greatly reduced.

Increased weaning weights will also be and advantage. This is the results from having more calves born at or closer to the first day of your breeding season and many more born on the very next cycle. For example if you desire your calving season to start on January 1st of each year and you synchronize your herd and AI them for this starting date. You may have 70% of them conceive and calve as a result of this and you put bull out to clean up the ones that didn't take. Your bulls will breed many of these cows on the very next cycle 18-23 days later. Therefore if you wean these calves on the same day every year and the average age is older then most likely the weaning weights will be higher. The older the calf is when it comes time for the next breeding season then the most likely the cow will breed back sooner then the cow that has the younger calves.

If you have a truck load of uniform calves out of proven sires or superior genetics you will be able to sale these calves at the top of the market or if you retain ownership then you will be able to benefit from the performance of these top quality calves that you will now produce. Buyers will pay for quality and performance and with improve genetics come increased prices.

If I can help you or answer any questions please call me at any time. I can also help you with your embryo transfer, flushing and freezing. I have facilities for embryo transfer and artificial insemination if you need to bring your cattle to me.

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Thank you.
Paul Fowler