

# Artificial Insemination Programs for Heifers

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# AI Programs for Heifers

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- Characteristics of Estrus
- Systems for Managing AI Program
  - Visual observation using tail chalk/paint
  - Synchronization using PGF
  - Ovsynch and Timed AI
  - Synchronization using MGA
  - Synchronization using CIDR inserts
- Gender Sorted Semen
- Take Home Message



Characteristic of estrus for Holstein and Jersey heifers continuously monitored by HeatWatch® System.

	Estrus periods	Standing events	Estrus duration	Conception rate
Holstein <sup>a</sup>	400	16.9	10.8	66
Jersey <sup>a</sup>	185	27.4	12.7	59
<b>Holstein<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>188</b>	<b>33.8</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>59</b>

<sup>a</sup>Nebel and Jones, 2002

<sup>b</sup>Richardson et al., 2002

# Age and weight at onset of puberty

Breed	Puberty (mo)	Wither height at puberty (in)	Weight at puberty (lb)
Holstein	11	48	660 (1.58) <sup>a</sup>
Crossbred Jersey/Holstein	9.9	45.5	550 (1.47)
Jersey	9	42	425 (1.28)

<sup>a</sup>Average Daily Weight Gain measured from birth to 6 mo of age.

Getzewich 2005

# Visual observation - tail chalk/paint

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- Observe: mark, back of hair, tail and vulva
- Mark or remark tail head with paint or chalk
- Move from heifer to heifer rapidly, stopping to closely observe abnormal heifers

