

# Pre-mating Checklist

**Goal:** Get the farm and cows ready for mating

Use this checklist when you are ready to start pre-mating heats. Put it up in the milking parlour as a reminder to keep you on track.

	Task	Completed by date/sign
Farm & Team	<b>Team focus:</b> Move focus to mating using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>your farm mating plan at staff meetings</li> <li>make sure you have plans in place to cover all tasks</li> </ul>	
	<b>Heat detection:</b> Complete staff mating management training. Include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>signs of heat</li> <li>the use of heat detection aids</li> <li>mating process including recording</li> <li>task responsibilities</li> <li>health and safety</li> <li>best practice animal handling</li> </ul>	
	<b>Non-cyclers:</b> Check with advisor/vet on pre-mating heat and non-cycler management strategy	
	<b>Dates:</b> Confirm start dates and times with vets/semen supplier/AI technicians. If using interventions, or making changes notify all involved early	
	<b>AI and drafting facilities:</b> Ensure area is working smoothly and safely, is suitable and clean, with no chemical fumes in AI area. Point out hazards to staff and those coming on farm	
	<b>Bulls:</b> Review NM* service bull policy and management/handling procedures with staff	
	<b>Finalise heat-detection procedure:</b> Check supply of heat detection aids	
	<b>Animal health plan:</b> Discuss plan with vet	
Cows	<b>Records:</b> Ensure herd records are up to date before mating starts	
	<b>Aids:</b> Schedule heat detection aid application dates and apply pre-mating heat detection aids on time throughout pre mating period	
	<b>Monitor:</b> Start recording pre-mating heats and implement non-cycler plan	
	<b>Body condition:</b> Score herd and act on results to manage thin cows	
	<b>Sort herd:</b> Split herd into mobs if necessary, according to management plan	
	<b>Animal Health:</b> Implement plan including trace element supplementation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check at-risk cows and ensure all are treated early</li> <li>Monitor cow health including lame and mastitis incidence</li> <li>Treat sick cows promptly</li> <li>Record health events</li> </ul>	
Bulls	<b>Logistics:</b> Confirm service-bull supply, health status and arrival date	
	<b>Bull management plan:</b> Draw up the plan, including health and safety guidelines for handlers	
	<b>Bull issues:</b> Confirm plan for sourcing replacement bulls if necessary	

\*NM = natural mating