

# TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL EMBRYO TRANSFER PROGRAM



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HOW TO

MULTIPLY  
SUCCESS®

## HEAT DETECTION **ACCURACY**

*With transfer of the embryo occurring from 7 to 8.5 days after heat (estrus)*

Heat detection is the most controllable factor in a producer's cost per pregnancy. Proper detection is more vital for an ET program than traditional AI programs.

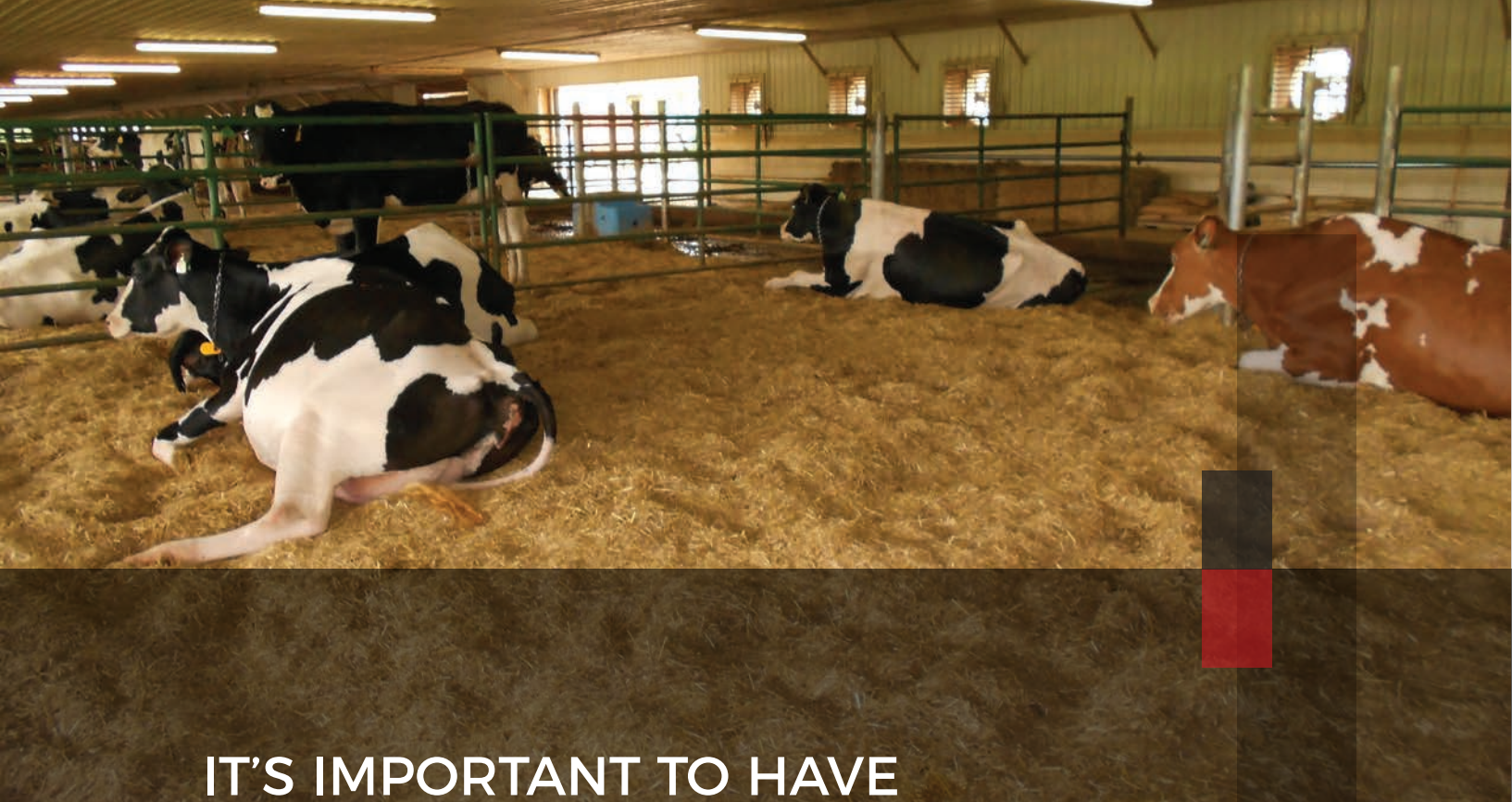
- Acceptable heat detection methods:
  - Visual detection  
Watch for 15 minutes minimum; both morning and evening.  
Walk calmly among recipients to encourage activity  
Record whether recipient stood to be mounted or was riding only  
Heat date is first detection period that the recipient stood to be mounted
  - Activity monitoring system  
Heat date is considered period of highest (peak) activity
  - Timed embryo transfer  
Industry recommended synchronization protocol that doesn't require heat detection  
Heat date is the time that timed A.I. is recommended
- Never rely solely on heat detection aids such as chalk, paint, or patches, as they may yield a high percentage of false heats.
- Relying on palpation or ultrasound only can cause errors, as a corpus luteum (CL) is present from day 5-18 of the heat cycle, so the day of heat cannot be accurately determined.



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## IT'S IMPORTANT TO HAVE **STRESS FREE RECIPIENTS**

- ✓ No crowds
- ✓ No environmental stress
- ✓ Balanced ration
- ✓ Proper body-condition
- ✓ Proper vaccinations prior to estrus
- ✓ Cows at least 75 days in milk at estrus



### **EMBRYO QUALITY & HANDLING MATTERS**

It's important to begin with embryos that are designed to be frozen. Not all frozen embryos perform the same way.

Keep embryos under liquid nitrogen until time of transfer to avoid adverse affects to embryo quality.

Follow protocol for temperature and thawing techniques to maximize conception and minimize early pregnancy loss.



### **NON-TRAUMATIC TRANSFERS**

Ensure proper restraint of recipient; use headlocks or chute.

Pass the transfer gun up the uterine horn on the side where the CL is located.

Be gentle, as damage to uterine lining can occur once the cervix has been passed.

Depress the plunger firmly, not rapidly.

Practice to gain confidence! We recommend 200 practice transfers, using 5-10 recipis per day, a minimum of 5 days per week.

*\*It may take up to 200 actual transfers for a technician's conception rates to improve & plateau.*