

FIXED TIME ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION (FTAI)

Fixed Time Artificial Insemination (FTAI) has revolutionised the use of artificial breeding for beef cattle.

The rapid uptake of FTAI has been responsible for a 250% increase in AI of beef cattle in Brazil from 4 million in 2008 to 12 million in 2011!

Synchronization has many benefits, firstly cattle only need to be yarded 3 times, heating checking is not required and labour requirement is greatly reduced. Secondly FTAI results in more AI calves being born to a herd compared to other methods, the AI calves generally have increased the performance and genetic status of the herd. Thirdly Synchronization concentrates calving into a tighter time period and lastly cows have the opportunity to calve earlier in the calving pattern, thus having more opportunity to stay in the herd.

Research shows if a maiden heifer calves in the first 3 weeks of her first calving period, she is 13% more likely to remain in the herd for her breeding life. Thus increasing the farm returns and profitability. Also allowing for more selection on other traits rather than just culling open/empty cows.

The practical field use of FTAI have achieved some amazing results with farmers claiming up to 80% AI calves born in their herds. 60%-65% is a more common result with one round of FTAI in cows.

Consider the genetic progress, when 2 years later all the herd replacements are the AI sired daughters, that were born in the first 7-10 days of calving, and then to be AI'd to industry AI sires.



ABS Australia, together with Southern Cross Genetics have brought industry leaders in FTAI to Australia to talk at the annual conference. ABS

AU and SCG continue to meet and correspond with the likes of Dr. Rick Funston (2011 conference) and Dr. Cliff Lamb (2013 conference) in order to bring the most current research information on synchronization to the Australian cattle industry.



Tips and thoughts on what we have learned.

Keep it simple, follow the "7-day FTAI Co-synch and CIDR program" to the letter.

Resynchronization is okay to do after a FTAI program, but remember resert cidr's 12 days after with heifers and 13 days with cows.

- Research shows the process of FTAI on average increases the number of calves born in the first 21 days, by as much as 70% when compared to natural service.
- Using the FTAI process shows on average an increase weight at scheduled weaning by 17kg, clearly covering the costs of FTAI. In fact research shows a gain of \$60+ a calf when using FTAI compared to natural service with bull value at \$4,500.
- In addition programs such as late gain vs. even gain for weight in heifers from weaning to conception can increase AI conception by 25% with more calves to AI.
- Sexed semen can be used in FTAI. For best results use tail paint or patches, plus some heat observation in the yards, and use sexed semen on females that have definitely cycled.



ABS AUSTRALIA BEEF SPECIALIST CONSULTANTS

To deliver the best beef program in the country there are 3 main ingredients - Bulls, Programs and People. Here are some of the people that assist in making ABS Australia the leading team.



STEPHEN PEARCE, Brangus Breed Consultant, Northern & Central Queensland Sales

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Stephen Pearce joined the ABS team as a Brangus specialist in 2009. Stephen has a unique understanding of a wide range of cattle. Stephen was raised on a leading Angus stud in South Australia and is now developing his family's operation, Telpara Hills, into a world-class herd of Brangus and Charolais adapted to the tropical conditions in Far North Queensland.

Stephen manages large ET programs, importing embryos from their herd in the USA. Stephen regularly visits North America to inspect progeny and sires. Stephen helps select new ABS Brangus sires and uses them heavily in his own herd. This makes it possible to provide accurate and honest breeding advice.



CHRIS GARVIN, Central and Northern NSW Sales

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Chris has been involved in the seed stock industry since 1991 with the inception of his Angus stud Triple B Angus, which is now run as Trowbridge BBB Angus. AI and ET have been heavily used with great success to expand the herds.

Chris also runs a cattle consultancy business which involves assisting clients in the marketing of their seed stock, showing of their cattle and conducting Embryo Implanting programs and AI programs. Being an ABS beef consultant is a natural progression for Chris.