

d. Sheep (6 months)

1. shouldn't be bred prior to 9 months and then only if large and full
2. Best to wait for one year to avoid lambing problems

D. Artificial Insemination

1. No type of insemination, natural or AI, has a conception rate of 100%
2. Timing of conception
 - a. very important

SKETCH CONCEPTION RATE TABLE ON THE BOARD AND HAND OUT THE HANDOUT

- b. conception may result from insemination before or after estrus
- c. inseminate 12 - 18 hours after first signs of heat

E. When does ovulation occur?

1. ovulation occurs when follicle is ruptured and egg is released (ovulate)
2. If semen doesn't get to the follicle before egg is released it's too late
3. Cattle - 6-12 hrs of standing heat
 - semen needs to be in tract six hours before ovulation
4. Swine
 - a. length of heat period is two to three days
 - b. Sow conceive best on second day of heat (18-60 hours after heat begins)
 - c. Sow should be bred again if she is still in heat on the third day
5. Sheep
 - a. heat period is appx. 30 hours
 - b. egg is ovulated about an hour before the end of heat

F. Detecting Heat

1. Observing
 - a. female being mounted
 - b. problem is that cows aren't watched around the clock
2. Markers (Two types)
 - a. plastic packet containing colored liquid
 - 1) pasted on the rump of cows
 - 2) when cow is mounted, weight of cow breaks packet
3. Gomer Bull
 - a. used to seek out cows to be bred
 - b. bulls sex organs are fixed so he can't breed the cows
 - c. wears halter with ink marker under chin
 - d. marks cows back with ink when mounting the cow
 - e. easy to identify the cows
4. Synchronized heat