

## Planning insemination

The best time to inseminate is about 24 hours before ovulation until 4 hours after. Most sows ovulate on the fifth day after weaning. However, in some herds there are sows that ovulate so early that it is too late to inseminate on the fifth day. If the sows are already in oestrus on the third day, it is recommended that insemination takes place on the fourth day.

We know that ovulation takes place two thirds of the way through oestrus. However, we cannot predict how long a sow's oestrus will last. We therefore need to know the oestrus conditions in the herd to be able to plan insemination work effectively without compromising the results. It means knowing the number of days between weaning and the beginning of oestrus and the duration of the oestrus itself.

Experiments have shown that sows follow more or less the same pattern in each herd, but the picture differs from herd to herd. There are of course differences between sows in the same herd.

This is illustrated in the diagram. In this instance, we are only referring to "normal" sows. Nursing sows in particular can deviate from the norm because they might have been in oestrus in their farrowing pens.

To be able to assess when the oestrus begins and finishes, you have to check for oestrus twice a day over a certain period. The findings are recorded in an oestrus log. When the figures are analysed, it will be possible to organise the insemination work in the most effective way possible and assess whether semen needs to be ordered for the fourth day. You can order an oestrus log from A/S Hatting-KS.

For herds with favourable oestrus conditions, it would be best to wean in the morning and begin inseminating on the afternoon of the fourth day. Only sows that show a clear standing reflex should be inseminated. It is best to inseminate most sows with 2 doses per oestrus.

### Optimal insemination time

■ = Ovulation

♂ = Insemination

■ = Optimal insemination time

■ = Standing oestrus

