

# Top 10 Tips for Successful AI Synchronization

Check out these key tips on how to implement an artificial insemination synchronization program.

There are several advantages associated with following an artificial insemination (AI) synchronization protocol. When breeders manipulate the female's estrous cycle breeders can shorten the calving interval and produce a more uniform calf crop with similar ages.

Commercial herds with 80% of cows calving the first 21-30 days of that calving season can benefit from a synchronization program.

With an AI synchronization protocol there are two opportunities for cows to get pregnant in the first 21 days. AI synchronization can result in most cows being in heat earlier, and the ones that don't stick to that pregnancy will have another opportunity during their next cycle.

Here are 10 tips for a successful AI synchronization program.

- 10) **Have a strategy to identify early calving cows** — use a designated tag number or a tag color for early-born calves and their dams.
- 9) **Have equipment and supplies on hand** — have synchronization drugs, controlled internal drug release inserts (CIDRs) and semen on-hand.
- 8) **Double check your protocol** — don't try to recall your protocol from memory.
- 7) **Make sure facilities are adequate.**
- 6) **Use a synchronization protocol that fits your management.**
- 5) **Make sure the cows you are going to synchronize are far enough from calving season post-partum** — this gives them an opportunity to respond to the synchronization protocol.
- 4) **Make sure heifers are heavy enough to breed, and cows have a good body condition score.**
- 3) **Use only high-accuracy bulls.**
- 2) **Have cycling cows** — cows that calve the first 30 to 40 days of the calving season.
- 1) **You don't have to synchronize all cows** — if you have a spread-out calving season, you can sort out those cows that are early-calvers and use those in your synchronization protocols. **HW**

**Editor's Note:** The content was provided from the BCI Cattle Chat podcast, hosted by Brad White, Dustin Pendell and Bob Larson for the Kansas State University Beef Cattle Institute. For related information, follow the podcast at [KSUBCI.org](http://KSUBCI.org).