

Artificial insemination

This section contains important elements for the success of artificial insemination (AI) results. They are both valid for new livestock, nulliparous females and those in production.

Reminders :

- *The gestation period for rabbits is 31 days.*
- *In a management in 42 days, the renewal females (nulliparous) are inseminated for the first time at 19 weeks old. The females in production are inseminated 11 days after kindling.*

1) 7 days before AI

- **Nulliparous females:** health sorting of animals, weighing and put the identification tag (Fact No. 5.2). Write individual tracking sheets, if necessary.
- **Females in production:** choose females to be inseminated (cull females according to criteria on Fact No. 5.1) based on the number of AI to achieve.

→ **Preparation of the animals:**

- **Flushing with light:** increasing the duration of lighting to reach **16 hours / day** (see lighting program on page 2).

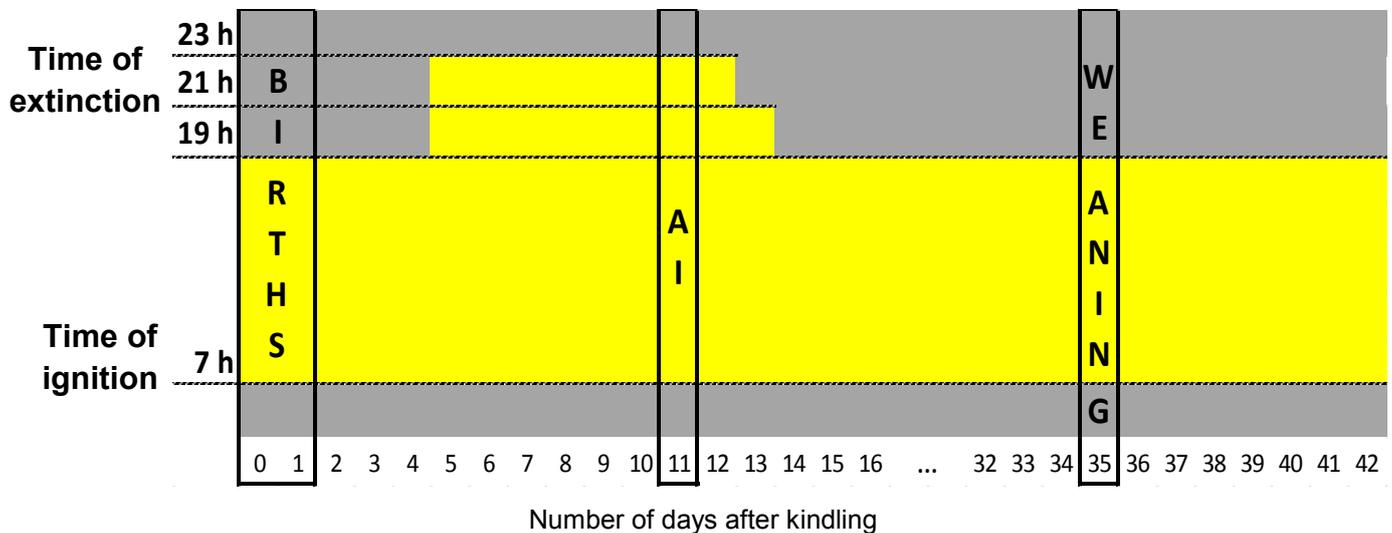
 *When modifying the lighting program, do not change the time of ignition of the light but only the time of extinction.*

- **Flushing with feed:** increase the amount of feed by 20% of all rationed females: nulliparous, at rest and females with a negative palpation. **Do not feed these animals at will (*ad-libitum*).**



Avoid any stress on animals during the 7 days before A.I.: water cut, vaccination, work, travel...

Example of lighting program in single group with a management in 42 days



- The duration of illumination should correspond to the hours of livestock work.
- Out of the flushing period, the duration of illumination is between 10 and 12 hours/day.
- During the fattening period, the duration of illumination may be reduced to 8 hours/day.

2) 4 days before AI

- Make a course of vitamins (without vitamin D) **for 3 days** to stimulate reproduction.
- It is important to clean water pipes after any treatment in drinking water.

3) The day of AI

- During the implementation of A.I., respect the conditions of hygiene: use of disposable equipment, disinfect equipment and do the job quietly.

 It is best to make the AI in this order:

- 1/ GP females,
- 2/ Nulliparous females, to ensure the renewal,
- 3/ Non-lactating females,
- 4/ **Multiparous** lactating females,
- 5/ **Primiparous** lactating females. If the number of AI is reached before the end of the work, it is possible to leave some or all of the primiparous females at rest.

 After AI, return to the level of restricted feeding than before flushing for nulliparous and non-lactating females until transfer to the next kindling.

 **Limit stress on animals during 10 days after A.I.**

4) 2 days after AI

- The feed quantity for nulliparous and non-lactating females (rest or non-pregnant) has to be restricted at a level of 350 kcal / day until the kindling preparation (see Fact No.3.2).
- The duration of lighting must be gradually reduced to 10 - 12 hours / day by reducing the duration of 2 hours / day.



For farms that are not managed in single group, it is better to leave the duration of lighting at 16 hours / day continuously.

5) 14 days after AI

- The females can be palpated (pregnancy diagnosis) from 14 days after AI to transfer in the birthing room.

The period between 14 days after AI and weaning is the most suitable to achieve the anti-scabies, deworming or vaccine recall.



For a new livestock, deworm the entire herd after the second AI. It is then recommended to deworm the whole herd each 2 groups, 14 days after AI.

Each period of deworming must be followed by a 3-day course of vitamins (without vitamin D).

6) Resting and shift over time artificial insemination



Start of a new herd. It is advisable to perform the second AI 18 days after the first kindling, instead of 11 days. This time lag allows females to complete their growth in better conditions, improve their birth rate and longevity.



It is possible to leave at rest the lactating females during their first kindling, which is to say to wait 6 weeks to inseminate them for 2nd time. This technique has a favourable effect on longevity of the animals. To ensure the rationing of these females after weaning, apply the same program that for non-pregnant females.