# Dairy AI and Reproduction Technician

## Dairy farming

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| **Job title** | Dairy AI and Reproduction Technician |
| **Department** | Dairy farming |
| **Reports to** | Herd Manager, with technical direction from the farm vet |
| **Direct reports** | None |
| **Location** | *[To be confirmed by the employer]* |
| **Contract type** | *[Permanent / fixed-term / other]* |
| **Salary and benefits** | *[To be confirmed by the employer]* |

## Job purpose

The AI and Reproduction Technician improves herd fertility by running the farm's artificial insemination and breeding programme. The role detects heats, inseminates cows and heifers, confirms pregnancies, keeps reliable breeding records and trains herd staff in good reproductive practice.

## Key responsibilities

### Heat detection and insemination

- Detect and confirm heats using observation, activity monitors and tail paint
- Inseminate cows and heifers at the right time to the agreed protocol
- Handle and thaw semen correctly and maintain liquid nitrogen storage
- Run synchronisation programmes agreed with the vet

### Pregnancy diagnosis and fertility

- Scan or palpate cows to confirm pregnancy and find empty cows early
- Identify reproductive disorders and treat them or refer them to the vet
- Work to raise conception rates and shorten calving intervals

### Breeding programme and genetics

- Plan breeding to meet the farm's genetic improvement goals
- Assess semen quality and help choose sires
- Use mating plans to avoid inbreeding and match bulls to cows

### Records and analysis

- Record every heat, service, scan and treatment accurately and promptly
- Analyse fertility data to spot trends and support decisions
- Report breeding performance to management each month

### Standards, teamwork and training

- Follow strict hygiene and biosecurity rules during all reproductive work

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- Comply with animal welfare law, industry codes and farm SOPs
- Work with the vet, nutritionist and herd team to improve fertility
- Train herd staff in heat detection, safe handling and biosecure practice

## Qualifications and experience

### Essential

- Recognised certificate in bovine artificial insemination
- Proven experience of AI and heat detection on a commercial dairy farm
- Skill in pregnancy diagnosis by ultrasound, rectal palpation or both
- Good understanding of dairy cow reproduction and the oestrous cycle
- Experience with herd management and breeding software

### Desirable

- Degree or diploma in animal science, veterinary science or a related subject
- Further training in reproductive management or dairy genetics
- Experience on a large, well-run dairy unit
- Evidence of ongoing professional development in reproduction, genetics or biosecurity

## Skills and attributes

- Precise AI technique
- Accurate heat detection
- Confident pregnancy diagnosis
- Record keeping and data interpretation
- Clear instruction and coaching of staff
- Attention to welfare and biosecurity
- Analytical approach to improving breeding results

## Measures of success

- Heat detection (submission) rate
- Conception rate to first and all services
- Pregnancy rate
- Calving interval and days open
- Accuracy and timeliness of breeding records

## Working conditions and safety

Hands-on work with cattle in handling facilities and housing, usually on a daily early-morning routine with weekend cover on a rota. Protective gloves, overalls and boots are worn and safe handling procedures apply at all times.

- Follow health and safety rules and safe systems of work, and wear the correct PPE
- Follow animal welfare, biosecurity and medicine-use procedures at all times
- Report hazards, accidents, near misses and concerns promptly

*This job description outlines the main duties of the role. It is not a complete list, and the employer may update it as the business changes, in consultation with the jobholder.*

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