

# RECIPIENT SYNCHRONIZATION PROTOCOLS.



Estrus synchronization is commonly used to set up recipient cows for embryo transfer (ET). For recipients to receive an *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) embryo, cows should be in heat 7 to 8 days prior to day of ET. To maximize recipient utilization, cows can be synchronized using a variety of protocols including the 7 day CO-Synch + CIDR protocol (Table 1), 5 day CO-Synch + CIDR protocol (Table 2), or Double OvSynch. These protocols take 10 to 17 days to implement, therefore recipient programs need to be scheduled in advance of ovum pick-up for fresh transfers. Heat detection can also be utilized by recording heats and transfer embryos 7 days later.

**TABLE 1:  
7 DAY CO-SYNCH + CIDR PROTOCOL**

DAY OF WEEK	DAY	RECIPIENT(S)	DONOR(S)
Saturday	0	A.M. – CIDR in and 2 cc GnRH*	
Saturday	7	P.M. – CIDR out and 2 cc PG**	
Monday	9	A.M. and P.M. – Heat detect and record heats	OPU Collection
Tuesday	10	A.M. – Give all recipients 2 cc GnRH; A.M. and P.M. – Heat detect & record heats	
Tuesday	17	A.M. – Embryo Transfer	

\* Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone

\*\* Prostaglandin

**TABLE 2:  
5 DAY CO-SYNCH + CIDR PROTOCOL**

DAY OF WEEK	DAY	RECIPIENT(S)	DONOR(S)
Monday	0	A.M. – CIDR in and 2 cc GnRH*	
Saturday	5	A.M. – CIDR out and 2 cc PG**; P.M. (+/- 8 hr after 1st PG shot) – Give second 2cc PG dose	
Monday	7	A.M. and P.M. – Heat detect and record heats	OPU Collection
Tuesday	8	A.M. – Give all recipients 2 cc GnRH; A.M. and P.M. – Heat detect and record heats	
Tuesday	15	A.M. – Embryo Transfer	

\* Gonadotropin Releasing Hormone

\*\* Prostaglandin

## Tips for Success:

- Utilize recipient cows that are 60 days postpartum or heifers that have reached puberty
- Give pre-breeding shots 30 to 45 days prior to starting synchronization protocol
- Avoid large changes in nutrition 30 days pre- and 45 days post-embryo transfer
- Recipient cows should be transported to their home environment as soon as possible after embryo transfer to minimize stress
- Pregnancy checks can occur as early as 35 days post transfer and should be completed before 100 days of gestation to accurately age fetus and projected calving date

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