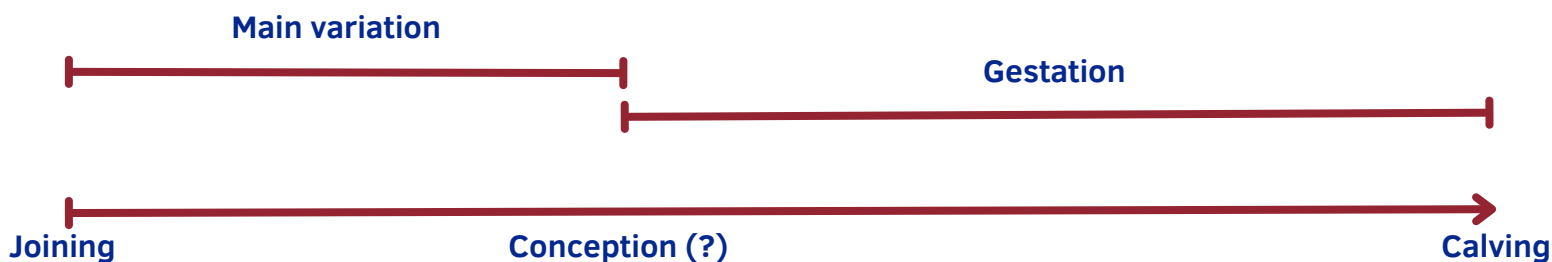


### Timeline



#### What is Days to Calving?

- The number of days between the start of the joining period and the subsequent calving.
- Days to calving (DTC) is a measure of female fertility.

#### Why Record Days to Calving?

- Female fertility has a large influence on herd performance and is a major determinant of profitability.
- Recording DTC is a useful way to manage reproductive performance.
- DTC EBVs are a means of identifying superior females based on fertility.

#### Days to Calving EBVs

- DTC EBVs are estimates of the genetic differences between animals in the time from the start of the joining period until the subsequent calving.
- Expressed in days.
- Tool for breeders to improve the genetics of the female fertility in their herds.
- DTC EBVs can be used in association with routine management practices and culling strategies.

#### Interpreting Days to Calving EBVs

- Females with shorter DTC EBVs tend to reach puberty earlier and return to oestrous sooner after calving.
- DTC EBVs identify cows that calve earlier in the season, compared to those that calve later in the season while cows that do not calve are penalised.
- Lower, or more negative, DTC EBVs tend to be more favourable. For example:
  - A bull with a -5 days DTC EBV is expected to produce daughters that conceive earlier in the joining period.
- Differences in the time taken for females to conceive after the start of the joining period can be a major factor in DTC variation.

#### Information Required for Days to Calving EBVs

- Joining details of all females (heifers and cows) mated (whether successful or not):
  - Bull-in date - the date the mating program began
  - Bull-out date - the date the bull was removed
- Details of all females removed from the herd.
- Details of all calves (dead or alive) that are born as a result of these joinings.
- This information must be recorded in mating lists and sent to the society using either of the following BREEDPLAN compatible options:
  - Microsoft Excel spreadsheets
  - Herd recording program such as HerdMASTER

#### More Information

Scan the QR codes below for the complete BREEDPLAN Tip Sheets or click [here](#) for the BREEDPLAN Help Centre.

