

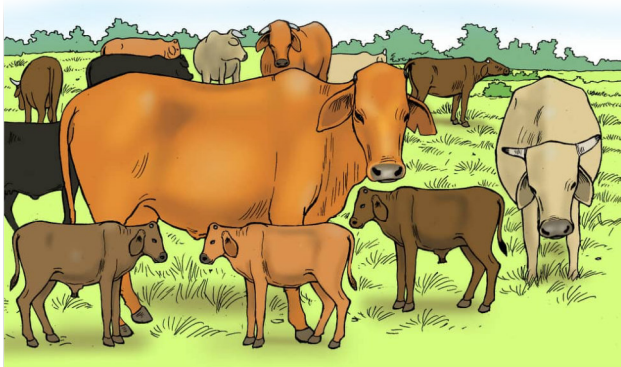
# ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION IN BREEDING CATTLE

Artificial insemination (AI) is common practice across the world and can be an important tool to help produce healthier more productive cattle to grow your smallholder farm and business.

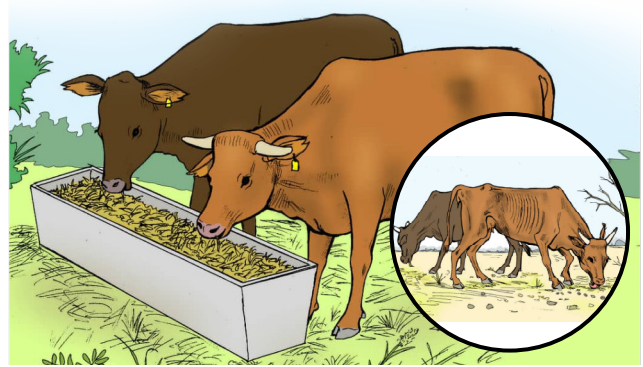
Artificial insemination is the technique whereby semen with living sperm is collected from a superior breeding bull and introduced into female (heifer/ cow) during heat with the help of an insemination kit (instruments).

## BENEFITS OF ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION IN BREEDING CATTLE

AI can improve cattle value, productivity, profitability, and farmer income by:



Increasing herd size through producing more offspring and improving cattle breeds (genetics) by producing superior calves.



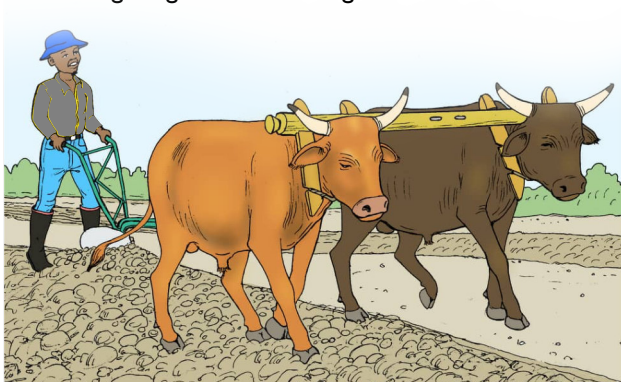
Helps to avoid in-breeding resulting in bigger and healthier cattle.



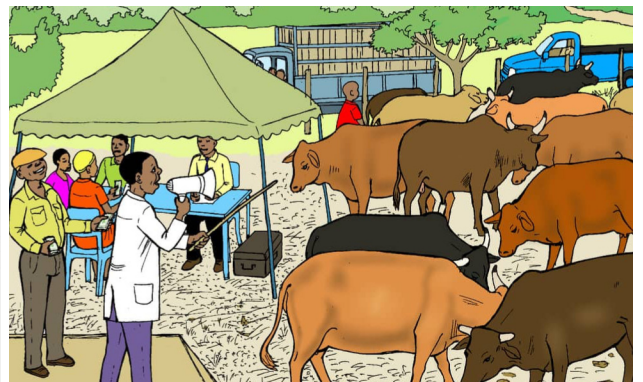
Providing cost-effective and flexible access to superior quality bulls (sires) without the cost and risk of maintaining a high-value breeding bull.



Improving genetics in dairy cattle to produce more milk per day.



Producing strong cattle and greatly reduces the risk of introducing venereal diseases into herds.



Helping in cattle breeding planning and more cost-effective cattle management and marketing.

## THINGS TO REMEMBER ABOUT ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

AI is not expensive relative to its benefits and return on investment (ROI).

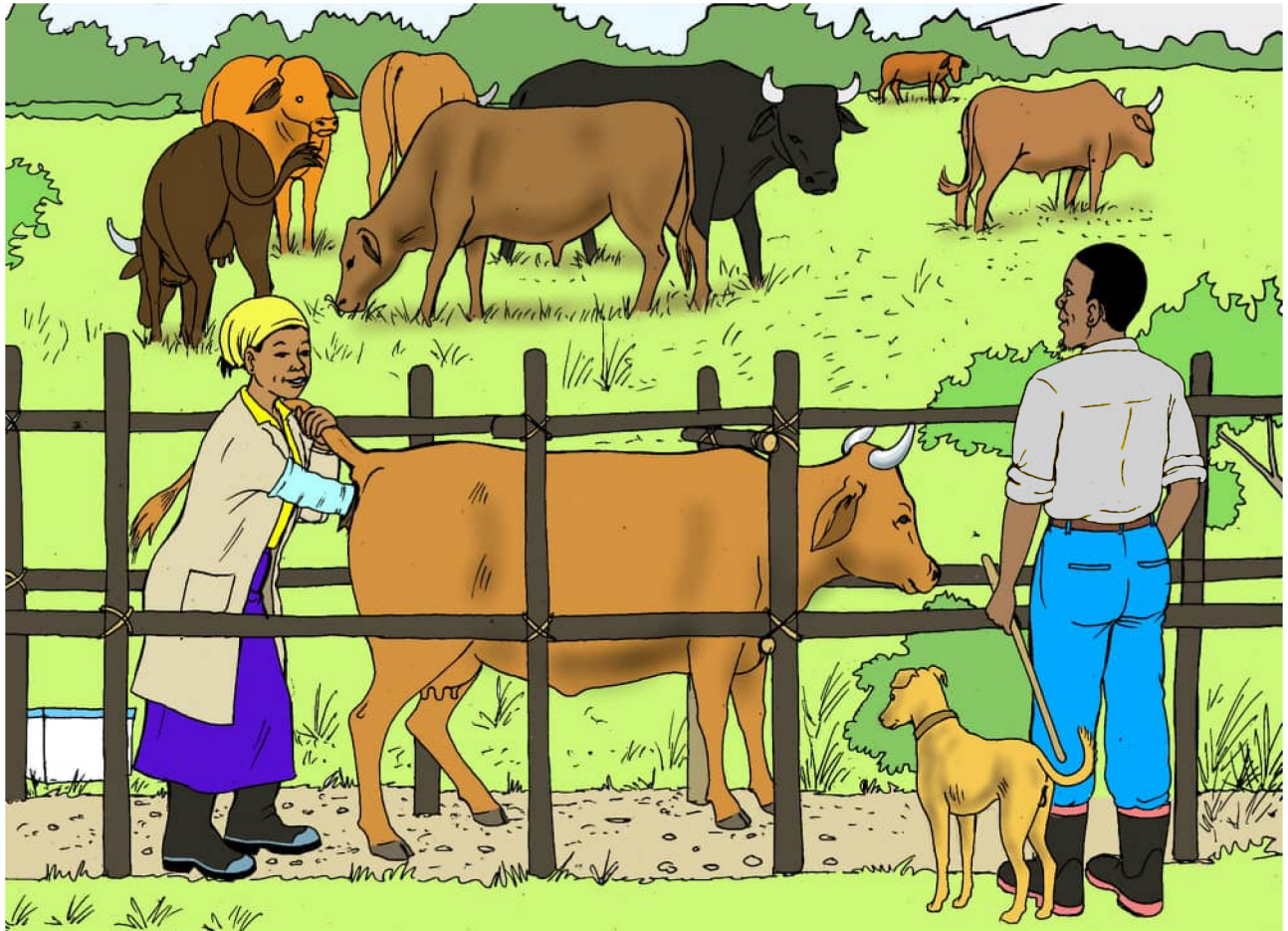
**The cost of AI ranges from roughly \$50-100, depending on service accessibility, number of animals inseminated, and the quality and type of semen (sexed v. normal semen).**

### AI is not difficult but requires:

- Knowing the signs of when cows are in heat (estrus)
- Proper cattle handling and feeding
- Proper semen storage and handling of the semen
- AI is not complicated and does not require specialized equipment or extensive technology
- AI has a high success rate if done properly

### The keys to successful AI are:

- Good cow management
- Accurate record keeping
- Proficient heat detection
- High fertility
- Quality semen
- An experienced inseminator
- Proper cattle handling facilities



On average **between 50%-70% of a herd will conceive** during a single AI insemination session.

For more information on adopting Artificial Insemination (AI), contact your nearest AGRITEX, veterinary services or a Feed the Future Zimbabwe Fostering Agribusiness for Resilient Markets livestock officer