



How to Pregnancy Check Your Cows

There are a few different ways to find out if your cows are pregnant. You can have your Veterinarian to do a palpation or an ultrasound professional to perform an ultrasound. These methods can give you information about the number of months pregnant and possibly the sex of the fetus.

But if you are just interested in a “Yes or No” answer, there is an easy and inexpensive way to get this answer. You can take a blood sample and send it to a lab for the results. These instructions are specifically for a company called BioTracking, but there a number of other labs that can process your blood test. We have found that BioTracking is both inexpensive and reliable. Wait a minimum of 30 days after AI or after removing the cow from the bull.

Items needed for the test:

1. Pair of nitrile safety gloves
2. 1 ½ 18-gauge needle (use a different needle for each animal)
3. 3cc syringe (use a different syringe for each animal)
4. 3 ml blood collection tube (from your vet or a vet supply vendor)
5. Alcohol spray
6. Paper towels

How to take the blood sample:

1. Get the animal in the chute.
2. Grab hold of the tail and lift it up at a 45 degree angle.
3. Clean the area with alcohol—spray above the anus to get a clean field and wipe with a paper towel.
4. About 1 inch above the anus, take the needle and insert at a 45 degree angle. If it bumps bone, pull back 1/8 inch and try to pull the blood into the syringe. If no blood at that angle push in to the right a little and pull back—try to find the vein.
5. Once you have the blood in the syringe, fill the collection tube—at least 1 ½ cc of blood is needed for the test.
6. Label the tube with the specimen #. the cow tag or tattoo number.

Note: if the cow bleeds excessively or the area balloons out, apply direct pressure with your thumb and hold it there for 45 seconds. Repeat until the blood clots. Do not release the cow until the bleeding has stopped.

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Sending in the Sample:

1. Take the labeled collection tube and wrap it in some cushioned material—we use paper towels or bubble wrap and place in a box. Do not use a bubble mailer.
2. Go to BioTracking.com and download the collection form. Choose “for Beef Cattle” and **BioPRYN Cattle Testing Submission Form**. Make copies so you don’t have to download them again. Note: you need 2 copies for every pregnancy test submitted.
3. Make sure the blood sample data on the form matches the tube information or the lab might not be able to identify the order with the sample.
4. All instructions for submitting the sample are on that site as well.
5. Take one completed submission form and place in an envelope with a check for \$2.50 for each test. Mail to: **BioTracking Inc. 1150 Alturas Drive, Suite 105, Moscow, ID 83843.**
6. Take the other completed form and place it in the box with the sample. Mail to the same address. They must be sent separately. One goes to their office and the sample to the lab.
7. Your results will be sent to you in about 4 days by email and also by regular mail. A document explaining the results will also be included.



Tip—make copies of the submission form and print a bunch of mailing labels. It really speeds up the process.