

Abstract by Stephen Butler - The importance of recording in establishing the value of sexed semen to dairy farmers

One of the biggest developments since the advent of artificial insemination over five decades ago is the commercialisation of sexed semen. Semen contains sperm bearing approximately equal numbers of X or Y chromosomes, resulting in female or male offspring, respectively. Sorting bovine sperm by flow cytometry has improved considerably and is over 90% accurate, generating so called 'sexed semen'. Poorer conception rates are generally noted for sexed semen compared with conventional semen (~80% of conventional), restricting its use to primarily on heifers.