

## **Mating system**

- Natural breeding allows animals to breed naturally.
- However, there are ways of controlling the natural breeding process.

## Hand Mating

- The male is kept separate from the female except during the act of breeding, is used primarily by purebred breeders to control mating
- Females are kept apart from the males until desired time of breeding
- Under the hand mating system, when the female comes into heat (estrus) she is brought to the male and mated individually.

*Advantages of this system are;*

- male can service more females
- the act of mating is controlled, and
- accurate records (breeding dates, etc.) are easier to keep

*Disadvantage;*

Hand mating requires additional labor because the female must be checked for heat twice daily during the breeding season and also brought to the male when mating is to occur

# Pen Mating

- Males and females coexist throughout the breeding season or year round
- Used mostly by commercial breeders
- Advantages
  - minimum labor
  - heat detection is the responsibility of the sire
- Disadvantages
  - uncertainty of mating and the date of conception
  - uncertainty of infertile sires and of un-bred females
  - may overwork the sire

## Pasture Mating

- The pasture mating system, used with most commercial herds, allows the male to be with the females throughout the breeding season or for the entire year.
- The pasture mating system may be used for all species of livestock.
- It requires less labor because it involves less handling of the animals.
- A disadvantage is that records are more difficult to keep, especially when more than one male is used for pasture mating
- When exact records are desired, place the recommended number of females per male and keep them in separate pastures

## Corral Mating

- Corral mating is used mostly by horse breeders and involves putting the mare and stallion together in a strongly fenced corral.
- There is no human assistance required, other than transporting the animals to the corral.
- Both mare and stallion are returned to their respective pens after service.








## Flock Mating

- Flock mating, popular with poultry breeders, allows a number of males to be placed with an entire flock of females.
- On average, a placement ratio of 12 to 15 males per 100 females is practiced in poultry breeding flocks.
- There tends to be high fertility rates with this system and it requires less labor.

## Pedigree

- A pedigree is a genetic representation of a family tree that diagrams the inheritance of a trait or disease through several generations.
- Pedigrees represent family members and relationships using standardized symbols.
- We can also indicate which individuals have a particular trait or genetic condition
- We usually include at least three generations in a pedigree
- By analyzing a pedigree, we can determine genotypes, identify phenotypes, and predict how a trait will be passed on in the future



-  Female
-  Male
-  Affected with trait
-  Deceased
-  Twins
-  Adopted
-  Miscarriage

