

Presence of mastitis in cows, especially if occurring around the time of insemination, has been shown to have a negative effect on fertility.

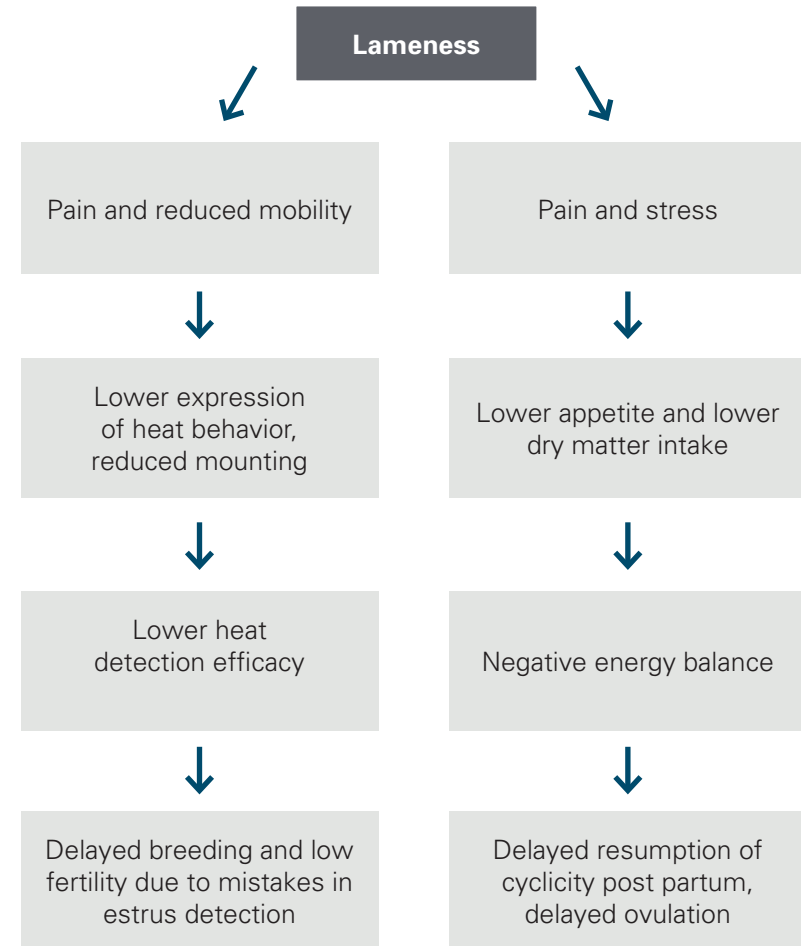
The negative effect of mastitis on fertility is thought to be associated with:

- Impaired follicular growth due to inadequate gonadotrophin support
- Delayed ovulation
- Possible direct effect of endotoxins and inflammatory substances on luteal function

Check whether mastitis might contribute to the reproduction problems in your herd	Yes	No
Do you have less than 20% of clinical mastitis in your herd during the first 90 days of lactation?		
Has your number of mastitis cases remained stable or decreased during the last 12 months?		
Does your bulk SCC remain below 150.000 cells/ml?		
Has your bulk SCC remained stable or decreased during the last 12 months?		
Do you refrain from insemination if a cow is diagnosed with mastitis around the time of breeding (up to two weeks before planned AI)?		
Do you delay the insemination of cows with clinical mastitis until the clinical symptoms disappear and the treatment is finished?		

Healthy claws are essential for the animal's well-being, production and reproductive efficacy.

Check whether lameness contributes to the reproduction problems in your herd	Yes	No
Do you evaluate the occurrence of lameness in your herd at least once a month?		
Do you use a locomotion scoring system to estimate the level of lameness at the herd level and in individual animals?		
Do you always evaluate the claw condition and lameness score in cows not seen in heat within the first 45 days pp.?		
Do you perform claw trimming at least once a year?		
Do you employ a professional claw trimmer?		
Do you have less than 5% of severely lame cows in the breeding herd?		
Do you perform a disinfecting foot bath at least 4 times a week starting from transition period?		
Do you separate cows with visible claw lesions from the rest of the herd at bathing?		
Do you immediately treat animals with visible lameness?		
Has the level of lameness remained stable in your herd during the last 12 months?		



References:

Socha et al., 2002 Hoof Health Conference, Columbus, Ohio; Garbarino et al., J Dairy Sci 2004;87:4123-31; Alawneh et al., J Dairy Sci 2011;94:5487-93