

## V. Bridge of Life

As a result of studying this information, as well as taking part in activities and discussion, the student will be able to :

1. Describe the meaning of conception and where it occurs in the female reproductive system
2. Describe appropriate breeding ages of types of livestock
3. Describe indicators or signs of the estrus cycles
4. Describe two methods that can be used in detecting animals in heat.

### A. Two Sex Cells

1. sperm
2. egg

### B. Conception

1. when sperm and egg meet or unite, conception has occurred
2. when the sperm fertilizes the egg
3. embryo is formed
4. embryo from egg and half from the sperm

### C. Age for Conception

1. Females should not be mated during the first estrus at puberty
2. REASONS:
  - a. Beef (6 months)
    - 1) heifer should weigh at least 750 lbs. or be 15 months
    - 2) Registered animals have minimum calving age of 18-24 months
  - b. Dairy (4 months)
    - 1) heifer should weigh:
      - Holstein and B. Swiss- 800 lbs. 64 in H.G.
      - Ayshire - 650 lbs. 57 in heart girth
      - Guernsey- 600 lbs. 54 in. heart girth
      - Jersey- 550 lbs. 41 in. heart girth
    - 2) not well enough developed to give birth to large calf.
    - 3) hazard to health and life of heifer at calving
  - c. Swine(5 months)
    1. breed at 8 mos. or 250 lbs.
    2. Second or third heat period
    3. the earlier the sow is bred the smaller the litter will be.

### HEAT PERIOD

### #OF PIGS

first	6.9
second	8.0
third	9.4