

Lesson 3: Puberty and the Estrous Cycle

Name: _____

Gathering Breeding Age Information

Objective: Gather breeding information from local sources.

Activity Length: Length depends on responses from sources.

Materials and Equipment:

Sources of information for different breeds – veterinarians, feed companies, extension livestock specialists

Computer for letter writing

Procedure:

1. Select a source to contact for the information on when to breed different species and breeds for the first time. Choose three different breeds of one species of animal to research.
2. Prepare a letter requesting information regarding the age and weight at which each of the three species should first be bred. Mail the letter to the selected source.
3. After receiving information from the source, fill out the table, listing the species and breed and the age and weight at the first breeding. Include all of the information gathered by the class.

Key Questions:

1. What is the minimum age and weight a heifer can be bred? What breed is the heifer?
2. Which breed of swine is the oldest when first bred? What age should it be?
3. Which species can be bred at the youngest age?