

Nicola Renato Farm Reduces Calving Interval and Saves Heat Observation Time with SCR Heatime® HR System



“Before using SCR’s Heatime System, I made all the decisions based on personal experience. Now with Heatime, I feel closer to the cows and more confident in my decisions.”

Alessandro Nicola, Co-Owner and Herd Manager, Nicola Renato Farm

At a Glance

Farm: Nicola Renato Farm

Location: Cavallermaggiore, Italy

Herd size: 185 milking cows

Challenges:

- Increase heat detection rate
- Gain peace of mind in heat detection accuracy
- Improve decision making on health and nutrition issues, and avoid impact on milk production

System:

- SCR Heatime® HR System with rumination, heat detection and cow identification functionality

Benefits:

- Reduced calving interval by 19 days due to accurate detection of estrus for optimal AI timing
- Increased fresh cows insemination rate – raised from 85% to 100%
- Significantly less time spent on heat detection
- Faster identification of health issues and close follow-up of sick cows’ recovery
- Better supported nutrition decision making

Background

The Nicola Renato Farm is a second generation family-run farm in Northwest Italy. Founded in 1940 with just five cows, the farm grew to 40 milking cows by the 1990s. The farm was renovated in 1995 and now has a herd of 185 cows, including 95 milking cows and 60 heifers.

Challenges

Timely detection of estrus is essential for the success of artificial insemination. Like many dairies, Nicola Renato depended on farm staff to recognize standing heats. But Alessandro Nicola, Co-Owner and Herd Manager, felt that visual observation wasn’t delivering the maximum pregnancy rate. “I had the feeling that I was missing heats and this was something we just couldn’t afford,” he explains.

Other important decisions were dependent on observation and staff expertise. Illnesses and nutrition problems were detected only once milk production had decreased or cow’s appearance had begun to deteriorate. This cost the farm dearly, with lower milk sales, additional health care expenses, increased fertility treatments and culls.

