



A.I. Technique Checklist

Before Thawing Semen:

1. Check breeding records of cows to be bred.
2. Have cow(s) properly restrained.
3. Have a sleeve, sheath, gun, scissors and paper towels ready.
4. Prepare water bath at 95 degrees F.
5. Gun and sheaths should be ~ 95 degrees F (not extremely cold or hot to the touch).

Thawing Semen and Loading A.I. Syringe:

1. Keep semen below frost line in the neck of the tank while removing semen.
2. Remove the straw of semen quickly and plunge it the 95 F water bath for 30 seconds.
3. After 30 seconds, remove the thawed semen and dry the straw completely.
4. Cut ~ ½ inch of the crimped end of the straw with clean scissors or Cito cutter.
5. Insert the cut end of the straw into the sheath insert.
6. Lock the straw and sheath in place using an O-ring or Spiral type syringe.

The Insemination Process:

1. Use a new shoulder-length glove for every insemination.
2. Lubricate the glove with clean, non-toxic lubricant.
3. Approach the animal cautiously and make her aware of your presence.
4. Lubricate the anus with gloved hand.
5. Gently enter the rectum by forming a cone with your fingers.
6. Gently and thoroughly clean the rectum of manure.
7. Check the reproductive tract for any abnormal conditions.
8. Thoroughly clean manure from the vulva with a paper towel prior to inserting the A.I. syringe.
9. Gently and smoothly pass the syringe through the vagina to the opening of the cervical canal – the external cervical os.
10. Funnel the tip of the syringe into the cervical os.
11. Hold the cervix ahead of the syringe's tip and manipulate the cervical folds or "rings" to allow the syringe to pass.
12. Avoid passing the syringe through the cervix if pregnancy is suspected.
13. Determine the length of the cervix and place your index finger at the uterine end of the cervix.
14. Gently move the syringe tip forward until you feel it with your finger.
15. Pass the syringe tip only as far forward as the uterine body of the cervix.
16. Be certain the syringe tip is not caught in a thin area between cervical rings.
17. Concentrate on accurate semen placement in the uterine body.
18. Slowly depress the plunger of the syringe during semen deposition.
19. If the animal moves, you will want to stop and check the position of the syringe, then continue to deposit the semen.
20. Gently remove the syringe and check for abnormal discharge and complete semen deposition.
21. Record the details of the insemination process including when, and to what sire the female was bred.