

# Semen Handling Checklist

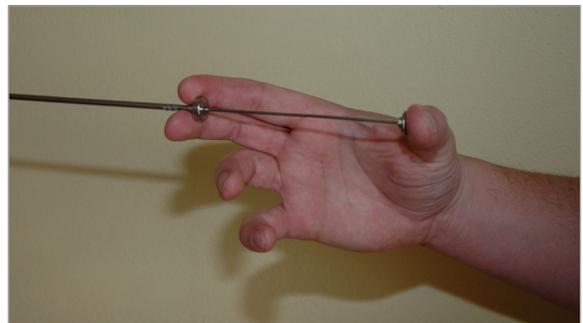
- › Store the liquid nitrogen (LN2) tank in a location that allows you to see clearly into the neck tube and is dust-free and dry.
- › Measure LN2 weekly; level should not drop below 3 inches (8 cm.).
- › Maintain an accurate semen inventory to lessen the risk of semen exposure.
- › Raise the canister just high enough to grasp the top of the cane with tweezers – 5 inches (12.5 cm) from top of tank (Fig. 1).
- › To maintain semen quality, do not allow the canister or cane to remain in the raised portion in the neck tube for more than 8 seconds.
- › GENEX semen can be thawed two different ways: Pocket Thaw™ or warm water thaw. If using Pocket Thaw, place the straw in a paper towel and place it in your shirt pocket to thaw for 2 to 3 minutes. If using warm water thaw, place the straw immediately in a warm water bath, at a temperature of 90-98 degrees Fahrenheit (32-36 degrees Celsius) for a minimum of 40 seconds.
- › Semen should be placed into the cow as quickly as possible (within 15 minutes after it is removed from the tank).
- › The straw should be handled by the tweezers, not the fingers.
- › To protect the thawed semen, place the insemination straw into a folded paper towel.
- › Dry the straw and check for proper sire identification before loading the gun. Note: Load only one gun at a time.
- › Prepare removal of sheath through a small hole at the corner of the sheath package.
- › Warm the gun prior to placing the insemination straw inside.
- › After the insemination straw is loaded into the insemination gun, make a clean cut (angled cut for 1/2 ml straws or straight cut for 1/4 ml straws) one-quarter inch from the end of the gun.
- › Wipe the cutting edge of the scissors with a paper towel, to prevent future straw contamination.
- › Place the sheath over the insemination gun, seat the straw in the sheath tip and secure it into place (Fig. 2).
- › Prime the insemination gun by pushing the plunger until semen is moved to the end of the sheath (Fig. 3).
- › Place the loaded insemination gun in a clean plastic glove and then inside your clothing to transport to the cow.



**Fig. 1:** Use tweezers to remove the desired straw.



**Fig. 2:** Slide sheath down over barrel.



**Fig. 3:** Push plunger toward fingers.

# Insemination Technique Checklist

- › Use a new glove for every insemination.
- › Lubricate the glove with clean, non-toxic lubricant.
- › Speak to the animal to make her aware of your presence.
- › Lubricate the anus with your gloved hand.
- › Gently enter the rectum by forming a cone with your fingers.
- › Gently and thoroughly clean the rectum of manure.
- › Check the reproductive tract for any abnormal conditions.
- › Clean manure from the vulva and the underside of your arm with a paper towel.
- › Place a clean v-spreader in the vulva.
- › Gently and smoothly pass the gun through the vagina to the opening of the cervical canal – the os cervix.
- › Hold the cervix ahead of the gun's tip and manipulate the cervical folds or "rings" to allow the gun to pass. (Fig. 1)
- › Avoid passing the gun through the cervix if pregnancy is suspected. Pregnancy may be indicated by a "sticky" mucus plug.
- › Determine the length of the cervix and place your index finger at the uterine end of the cervix.
- › Gently move the gun tip forward until you feel it with your finger.
- › Pass the gun tip only as far forward as the uterine body. (Figs. 2 & 3)
- › Be certain the gun tip is not caught in a thin area between cervical rings. (Fig. 4)
- › Concentrate on accurate semen placement.
- › Firmly hold the cervix.
- › Hold the shoulder of the gun between your ring and middle fingers. Place your right fingers against your left arm to ensure the gun is not pulled back into the cervix during semen deposit.
- › Deposit the semen into the uterine body; slowly (5 seconds) push the plunger into the insemination gun.
- › If the animal moves, STOP! Wait until movement stops, check positioning and continue the deposit.
- › Gently remove the gun and check for abnormal discharge after a complete semen deposit.
- › Remove the v-spreader from the vulva.
- › Record when, and to what sire, the animal was bred.

Blood on gloves? **BE GENTLE!**

Proper placement? **CONCENTRATE**

Spending no more than 1-3 minutes on most cows?

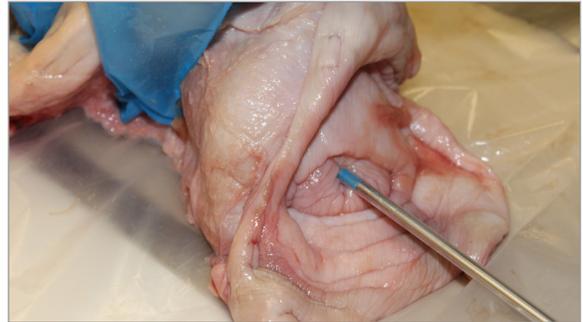
**THIS COMES WITH EXPERIENCE**

Are most repeat service cows showing abnormal discharges?

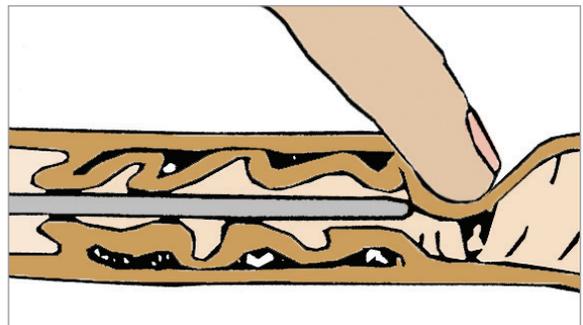
**SANITATION IS KEY!**

Sheath protectors are more sanitary and available upon request.

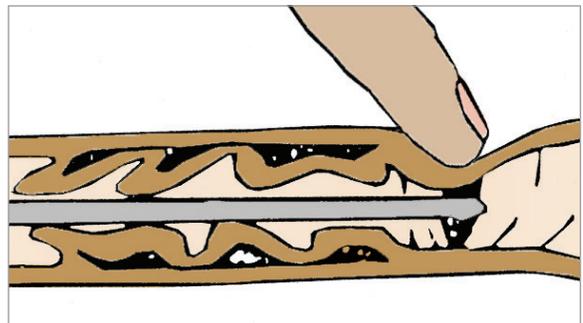
Keep all equipment clean by sanitizing routinely. Bleach wipes are ideal.



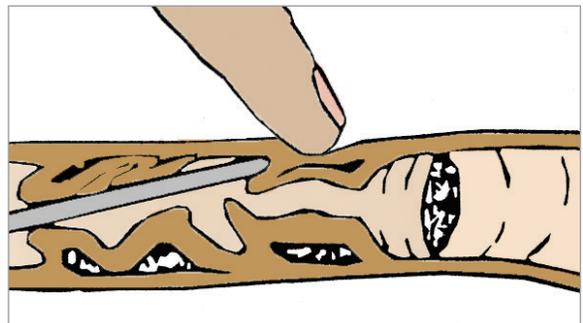
**Fig. 1: Manipulate the cervical folds to allow the gun to pass into the cervix.**



**Fig. 2: Correct location of the gun tip for deposit.**



**Fig. 3: Tip of gun is too deep!**



**Fig. 4: Don't deposit in a thin area between cervical rings.**