

PORK STORKS I
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PORK STORKS II
Rushmore, Minnesota
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Keys To Proper Semen Handling

1. Use semen within 96 hours of collection
 - a. This is usually an inventory control problem
 - b. Sperm starts dying immediately after collection
2. Use a sterile, non-spermicidal A.I. lubricant
 - a. Do not allow to become dirty
 - b. Keep the covers on the containers when not in use
 - c. Use small containers
3. Try to avoid using semen within 5 hours of collection
 - a. Antibiotics need time to work
 - b. Buffers need time to work
 - c. Management issue: you don't want your work day dependent on the semen arriving on time. This gives your crew more flexibility in case of an unforeseen event that may delay the driver.
4. Do not take any more than you need to the breeding area
5. Store at 16° to 18° F
 - a. Fluctuations in temperature are very damaging to semen
 - b. Use a hi/lo thermometer in cooltron to check it
 - c. Get the semen into a cooltron as soon as possible
6. Control temperature on the way to the breeding area
 - a. Use coolers and gel packs
 - b. Put gel packs both on the bottom and on the top of the semen
7. When evaluating semen, remember the following:
 - a. Look for semen motility greater than 60%
 - b. Dead sperm can not come alive. Ever!
 - c. Recheck semen to make sure that it is warm enough
 - d. Contact stud farm if theirs is a problem
8. If semen order is short before the next delivery, skip breedings on weaned sows that are just standing for the first time
9. Do not over interpret production data
 - a. Normal production fluctuations will occur
10. Have a back up plan in case the semen doesn't arrive on time or the boar stud has a problem