



Semen Storage and Management Guide

A. Semen Storage

1. Fresh semen should be stored at 17°C or 63°F in a fan assisted semen storage unit that is capable of heating and cooling the unit to maintain the correct temperature.
2. Check and record temperatures twice daily
3. Swine Vet Center has a handy, printable semen temperature and rotation recording sheet which can be obtained from their website www.swinevetcenter.com

B. Semen Management

1. Semen is delivered in a long term extender and has the ability to support sperm for 5 days after collection if managed correctly
 - a. Note: Day Zero is considered day of collection
2. Semen should be rotated twice daily
 - a. This will re-expose semen to the nutrient source and help maximize shelf life
3. Semen should be laid flat on the shelves to maximize the bag/tubes surface area
4. Ensure semen inventory is correctly managed so that old semen is used first

C. Semen Assessment

1. Pre-warm a sample of each stored batch of semen for 20 minutes at 35°C or 95°F
 - a. Pre-warming to a high temperature or for a long duration could kill or damage semen
2. Place a small drop of semen onto a clean, pre-warmed slide (35°C or 95°F) and cover with a clean pre-warmed cover slip
3. Focus the microscope under 100X or 400X magnification and check motility
 - a. All marginal samples should be checked twice before discarding
 - b. If no motility, prepare a new warmed slide and check again. If still no motility is observed, discard the sample and sample's batch
4. Inseminate all pre-warmed samples immediately
 - a. Do not return doses to the storage cooler

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