

Fresh Semen – Spring 2021

After semen is collected from bulls, it is processed by one of two main methods prior to despatch to the field - either as Frozen semen or Fresh Semen. These processing methods are very different and require that you manage the semen differently.

Reasons for Using Fresh semen

Fresh semen also allows the widespread use of top EBI bulls during the busy spring season, with no 30 day quarantine or semen being damaged in the freezing & thawing process etc.

However, because of the limited shelf life of Fresh semen (about 3-days) it needs to be collected and despatched to the field every 2 or 3 days. It is used only during periods when there is sufficient demand for A.I, typically during the spring seasons (April-June).

Fresh Semen Delivery

During the season Fresh semen is delivered every Monday, Wednesday and Friday to your collection point in an insulated Box (plus some Saturdays at peak also). Each technician is supplied with a Thermos Flask to transport the fresh straws and to protect the straws from large and rapid changes in temperature quickly transfer your straws to your Flask avoiding sudden changes in temperature.

Avoid direct sunlight as this will damage the sperms.

Avoid large fluctuations in temperature

Keep flask (straws) horizontally (lying in its/there side)

Care & Storage of Fresh Semen

You are responsible for the care and storage of Fresh semen so as to ensure sperm viability is maintained. To assist with maintaining sperm viability and therefore excellent conception rates, use your Thermos Flask to insulate the Fresh semen from fluctuations in air temperature. Please ensure that straws not required for immediate insemination remain in the Thermos Flask and keep the lid of the Flask closed unless it is absolutely necessary to have it open.

Keep the Flask out of direct sunlight. When you have finished your rounds for the day you must remove your Flask of Fresh Semen from your vehicle and **keep it in a cool place indoors to protect against potential frosty nights.**

Because sperm death is faster when sperm are in contact with the ends of Fresh straws, and to avoid all the sperms clumping at one end of the straw, **the Flask should be kept horizontal (Lying on its side) so that the Fresh straws are always held in a horizontal position (lying Flat).**

Recording of Serves - Handheld

Straws delivered are only to be used for 2 days after delivery unless instructed otherwise. All serves via the service must be recorded as “Fresh” on the “old” handheld, the serve must be recorded with the code of the bull followed by a -F, e.g. FR4728-F, however if you are on the “New” app/handheld, you select the bull and then the treatment as “Fresh”.

If for any reason the bull code is not setup or you’re having issues recording fresh inseminations on the handheld please contact the AI Office.

Use in the specified time

It is extremely important that Fresh straws are not used after their usable life. Straws delivered are only to be used for 2 days after delivery unless instructed otherwise.

Loading Your Gun with a Fresh Straw

The following procedures are designed to ensure that straws and Insemination Guns are handled efficiently and hygienically, that sperm viability is not compromised and that bull and batch information is recorded correctly. Having chosen a safe and comfortable place to work, prepare the Insemination Gun(s) (with the plungers pulled back 75 mm. Check select the cow on the Handheld and select the sire and entre to check for inbreeding.

Next, open the Fresh Semen Flask and select and remove the required straw and immediately replace the lid on the Fresh Semen Flask. Straws should only be handled at their ends to minimise temperature changes to the semen. Ensure each straw is given a sharp, downward flick so as to move the nitrogen bubble through the semen and to locate the nitrogen at one end of the straw.

Place the straw in the barrel of the Insemination Gun plugged end first and cut-off the crimped end of the straw with the scissors. Ensure the straw is cut through the air bubble, just below the crimp. Remember to wipe scissors clean, between bulls and batches so as to avoid cross contamination. Take the Insemination Gun and insert the barrel into the plastic sheath, taking care to handle only the quarter of the sheath nearest the non-tapered end. Lock the sheath into position using the plastic rings on the Insemination Gun. Carefully prime the straw by slowly and firmly moving the plunger into the Insemination Gun until you see movement of the semen at the tip of the sheath, taking care not to expel any semen.