

# Semen Handling Checklist



Fig. 1: Raise canister just high enough to grasp the top of the cane with a tweezers – about five inches from top.



Fig. 2: Remove sheath from package.



Fig. 3: Place the gun inside clothing or a paper towel to warm it before inserting the thawed semen straw.



Fig. 4: Slide sheath down over barrel.

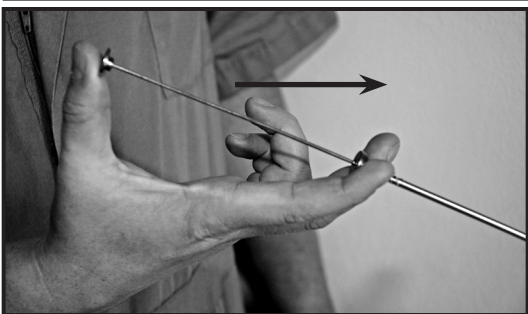


Fig. 5: Push plunger toward fingers.

- ✓ 1. 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.
- ✓ 2. Measure LN2 weekly; level should not drop below 3 inches (8 cm.).
- ✓ 3. Maintain an accurate semen inventory to lessen the risk of semen exposure.
- ✓ 4. Raise the canister just high enough to grasp the top of the cane with a tweezers – 5 inches (12.5 cm) from top of tank. (Fig. 1)
- ✓ 5. To maintain semen quality, do not allow the canister or cane to remain in the raised portion in the neck tube for more than 10 seconds.
- ✓ 6. 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 3 to 5 minutes. If using warm water thaw, place the straw immediately in a warm water bath, at a temperature of 90-95 degrees Fahrenheit (32-35 degrees Celsius) for a minimum of 40 seconds.
- ✓ 7. Semen should be placed into the cow as quickly as possible (within 15 minutes after it is removed from the tank).
- ✓ 8. The straw should be handled by the tweezers, *not* the fingers.
- ✓ 9. To protect the thawed semen, place the insemination straw into a folded paper towel.
- ✓ 10. Dry the straw and check for proper sire identification before loading the gun. *Note: Load only one gun at a time.*
- ✓ 11. Prepare removal of sheath through the resealable end of the sheath package. (Fig. 2)
- ✓ 12. Warm the gun prior to placing the insemination straw inside.(Fig. 3)
- ✓ 13. After the insemination straw is loaded into the insemination gun, make a clean, straight cut at a right angle to — and just below — the crimp.
- ✓ 14. Wipe the cutting edge of the scissors with a paper towel, to prevent future straw contamination.
- ✓ 15. Place the sheath over the insemination gun, seat the straw in the sheath tip and secure it into place.(Fig. 4)
- ✓ 16. Prime the insemination gun by pushing the plunger until semen is moved to the end of the sheath.(Fig. 5)
- ✓ 17. Place the loaded insemination gun in a clean plastic glove and then inside your clothing to transport to the cow.

## Cold Weather Tips

to prevent cold shock

- ✓ Store the AI kit in a heated location
- ✓ Handle semen in a warm place
- ✓ Warm straw gun before loading the straw



your **Prof<sup>it</sup>** partner™

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