D10-Lancaster Farming, Saturday, March 29, 1980



Drs. Gregory Brooke, left, and John Hasler work with swift intensity to implant an embryo into the womb of a young heifer. The embryo had been flushed earlier in the day from the womb of an outstanding milker in upstate New York.

Embryo transplants

(Continued from Page D8) McCauley explained ET

practice in the farmhouse office that serves as headquarters for the firm.

McCauley, who got his DVM from Cornell in 1969, opened his first ET business in early 1978 just outside Mount Joy. In the years between 1969 and 1978, he completed an internship in large animal obstetrics and surgery, taught bovine and equine reproduction at Cornell for three-and-a-half years and had a dairy practice for three years.

In the last four months, McCauley, Hasler and their helpers have completed 700 embryo transfers, and they're aiming for an eventual production of 300 ET's a month.

At first, McCauley said, they worked mostly with problem cows, good animals who couldn't be bred. ET can be a life-saver for problem breeders, because some 40percent of them can produce good embryos when they're super-ovulated

But properly managed, ET is more than a tool for dealing with fertility problems. It can be used by the dairyman who wants to build a top herd in a hurry,

and it can be used by the dairyman who wants to sell top breeding stock.

McCauley said they work with their clients in choosing animals and setting goals for an ET program.

"We look at type, pedigree and production, factors that Galen Crouse mentioned," McCauley noted. "Those numbers are pretty easy to get One of the big question marks in ET practice is whether or not a cow can transmit those superior genes to her offspring.

After an EmTrain client selects a cow for ET breeding, she receives a series of drugs which cause her to super ovulate. After her ovaries have been inducted into releasing dozens of eggs at once, she is artificially inseminated.

Seven or eight days after she has been inseminated. McCauley, Hasler or Dr. Gregory Brooke, the other EmTrain veterarian, visits the cow, flushes the embryos from her and, usually, bring them back to Elizabethtown. The embryos are carried simply in a small bottle containing a nutrient solution. At this stage, the embryos are about six days and still encased in a tough membrane which withstands

a surprising amount of

almost casual, even rough, treatment. McCauley carries the embryos in his shirt pocket, to help them stay warm.

At the E-town lab, the embryos must be separated from the bits and pieces that follow them out of the cow's uterus. Demonstrating the technique, Hasler dipped a syringe into a small bottle holding half-a-pint or so of fluid that has been added to the flushings from a cow's uterus.

He squeezed the bulb of the syringe a number of times, rapidly drawing the fluid up,

then ejecting it back into the bottle. This helped to break up the solids in the fluid, but it didn't affect the embry Hasler said.

Using a .microscope, Hasler then looked for the embryos, then determined which were suitable candidates for transplantation and which weren't.

Those that were, he placed in a tiny dish on the microscope stage. When he finished, the dish held eight pinpoints of life, any one of which could now be on its way to becoming a \$200,000

(Turn to Page D11)



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