

Arizona vet

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followed up on an advertisement he saw in a magazine. The ad was introducing embryo transfer equipment designed by Dr. England and Dr. North. The ad also pointed out the success the two have had in embryo transfer work. "I saw an ad in a magazine," Dr. Merritt said, "and I wanted to learn how these boys operate." And how Dr. England operates is

just what Dr. Merritt saw in his trip to Pennsylvania. Dr. England, himself, has been performing embryo transfer operations for five years. A Penn Stater, he graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1977. He spent the last six weeks of his veterinary training in Colorado where he learned how to perform embryo transfers. He also trained under Dr. James Evans of

Genetics Unlimited in West Grove. In explaining the embryo transfer process, Dr. England said that a series of nine shots of Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH) are injected into the donor cow. The injections are begun eight to 12 days (mid cycle) after the cow is noticed in heat. The shots are given every 12 hours and should result in the release of several eggs. During the 7th and 8th shots, prostaglandins are injected with the FSH to insure estrus. Once in heat, the cow is

bred. This process takes five days, Dr. England said. "If you begin the shots on Wednesday, then your cow should be in heat on Monday," he said. Flushing, or the removing of the eggs from the cow, is done at seven days. It is at this point where the process is deemed a success or a failure. In one of his embryo transfer operations, Dr. England said he recovered 35 eggs. Fifteen of those eggs were fertilized and resulted in

12 pregnancies. On the average, however, five or six eggs are usually found, he added. This average number, 6, is what Dr. England recovered from the operation he performed with Dr. Merritt's assistance. It was a successful operation, not only in terms of the eggs flushed from the cow, but in fulfilling Dr. Merritt's desire to learn of the embryo transfer process.

"This was a learning process for me," Dr. Merritt said of the embryo transfer performed at Penn-England Farms, owned by Frederick England of Williamsburg.

Merritt said he is looking forward to the opportunity to do his own embryo transfer work. Having learned the process of artificial insemination years ago, he said, "When I first tried AI I couldn't get anything pregnant, but I learned its all in the matter of touch." He views embryo transfer in a similar light, adding "you have to have a feel for it." -LE

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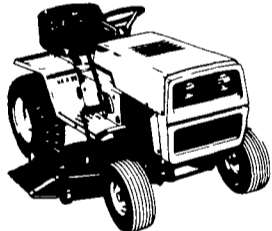
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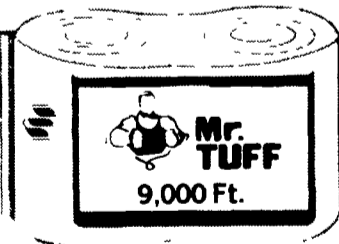
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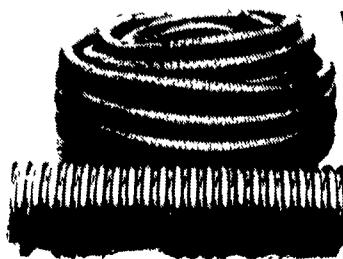
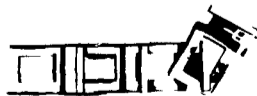
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