

# Semen Handling

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technique. Precise measurements of nearly 800 reproductive tracts revealed that the average length of the uterine body was only  $\frac{5}{8}$  of an inch, the size of a dime. There is not much room for error in placement of the rod tip. Analysis of all inseminations indicated only 39 percent of the rod tip placements were within the uterine body. Placements in the cervix, right uterine horn and left uterine horn were 25, 23, and 13 percent, respectively. Considerable variation was found among inseminators. These individuals were likely representative of professional inseminators and herdsman-inseminators throughout the country. Obviously, consistent placement of the rod tip within the uterine body is difficult.

Subsequent to this study, research at Washington State University showed that retrograde movement of sperm into the vagina was 2-fold greater following cervical insemination compared to uterine deposition. If one assumes that 25 percent of inseminations may result in cervical deposition of semen, than there is significant loss of sperm. This isn't an incomplete pass — it is an interception. Make sure you extend the rod tip beyond the inter-

nal cervical opening and be careful the rod tip is not inadvertently pulled back into the cervix during deposition of the semen.

• All inseminators should periodically attend a retraining course to review their technique and learn new developments.

This is only a brief review of important concepts and potential problem areas related to A.I. procedures. More detailed information can be obtained from your A.I. representative. Further information about insemination technique and semen handling can be obtained at the following Websites:

[www.das.psu.edu/reproduction/insem/index.html](http://www.das.psu.edu/reproduction/insem/index.html)

[www.das.psu.edu/reproduction/check/pdf/semen.pdf](http://www.das.psu.edu/reproduction/check/pdf/semen.pdf)



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