

Conventional Insemination

- Determine standing heat by using the back pressure test in the presence of an active, mature boar.
- Allow at least one hour of rest before breeding if sows are moved to another area of the barn.
- Only breed sows displaying a solid, standing heat.
- Sows that only show secondary signs of heat (red vulva, mucus, etc.) should not be bred yet.
- Avoid breeding sows that come into heat day 0 or 1 after weaning.
- Clean vulva with a single-use dry paper towel.
- Insert the catheter at a 45° angle until locked into the cervix.
- Rotate semen then attach the dose to the catheter.
- Allow sows to draw the semen themselves and do NOT apply pressure or perforate the semen dose.
- Stimulate the sow by applying back pressure and rub the shoulders, flanks and underline.
- If more than 10% of sows have backflow, review insemination technique and boar exposure.
- Be patient and take your time, ideally five to six minutes per insemination.
- If mating twice daily, allow a minimum of eight hours between inseminations.
- Use between 1 and 3 AI's/sow/mating. Sows in solid heat at their first AI average 1.9 to 2.2 doses per mating.

Post-mating

- Continue stimulation for 5-10 minutes after breeding by leaving the catheter in and AI buddies/saddles on.
- Expose the sows to a second active, mature boar for at least 10 minutes after AI.
- Leave a free roaming boar in front of bred sows for a few hours.
- Do not move or pen sows from day 5 until 35 of gestation.

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