

Collect and store livestock semen for future use

Overview

This standard covers the collection and storage of livestock semen for future use. It does not include the collection of semen for re-sale purposes as carried out by specialist operators.

This standard covers identifying livestock suitable to be used for breeding purposes, collecting the semen, assessing the quality and storing it appropriately. The methods used for collecting the semen must be suitable for the type and breed of livestock involved.

When working with livestock or machinery you should be trained and hold current certification, where required.

The standard is suitable for those who collect, prepare and store livestock semen for future use.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the activity to be carried out
2. wear suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. select, prepare, use, maintain and store the required tools, equipment and materials, safely and correctly
4. maintain hygiene and bio-security in accordance with business practices
5. confirm that the work area is safe and suitable for the collection of semen
6. identify, prepare and handle suitable livestock in a way that is likely to maintain your own safety, minimise livestock stress and maximise the yield and quality of the semen
7. make the necessary adjustments to working methods and equipment throughout the process
8. collect semen using recognised methods
9. confirm that the semen collected is of the correct quality and quantity for future use, and take action when it fails to meet production specifications
10. return livestock to their living environment safely
11. handle semen using the appropriate methods
12. label storage containers clearly and accurately and place them in the correct location
13. store semen at the correct temperature for future use, in accordance with production specifications
14. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in, or affected by, your work
15. carry out your work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, animal health and welfare legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies
16. confirm that records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation and the business

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. the type of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the activity
3. the types of tools, equipment and materials required and how to prepare, maintain, use and store these safely and correctly
4. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the methods for achieving this
5. why some males are unsuitable for breeding purposes and how to identify livestock unsuitable for the collection of semen
6. the methods of safely preparing livestock for the collection of semen
7. the ways to reduce stress in livestock
8. the types of adjustments to the process for the collection and storage of livestock semen that may be required
9. the methods for assessing the condition of the semen
10. the actions to be taken when semen does not meet production specifications
11. how semen should be handled and stored to maintain quality
12. the ways in which semen must be labelled for future use
13. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in, or affected by, your work and how this should be done
14. your responsibilities for the welfare of livestock under relevant animal health and welfare legislation, codes of practice and business policies
15. your responsibilities under current environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies
16. the records that need to be kept and the importance of completing them

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