

Overview

This standard covers the key features of delivering artificial insemination to livestock. Herd fertility is a critical factor in any breeding enterprise, and artificial insemination (AI) has become a dominant procedure in the reproductive process on many breeding units. At this level you will be expected to deliver all aspects of the insemination process.

This standard covers the artificial insemination process and management of the procedure from oestrus detection and timing of service through to keeping records. You are required to have experience of handling adult livestock and will carry out these activities in accordance with business practices.

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

This standard is suitable for those responsible for delivering artificial insemination to livestock and who have been appropriately trained.

Deliver artificial insemination to livestock

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 equipment in a safe and sterile condition
4. maintain hygiene and bio-security, in accordance with business practices
5. confirm that the work area is safe and suitable for the artificial insemination of livestock
6. identify the livestock to receive artificial insemination
7. move and handle the livestock in a way that is likely to maintain your own safety and minimise stress to the livestock
8. deliver artificial insemination to livestock with minimal discomfort and while promoting animal welfare
9. return livestock to accommodation and monitor them for any problems that may occur
10. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in, or affected by, your work
11. carry out all 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
12. confirm that records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation and the business

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 equipment required and how to prepare, use, maintain and store it safely and in a sterile condition
4. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the methods for achieving this
5. the signs of oestrus in livestock and the devices that can be used to aid detection
6. the length of oestrus and the timing of artificial insemination to achieve conception
7. the correct method of delivering artificial insemination to livestock
8. the typical conditions in which livestock should be restrained during artificial insemination, in order to promote their welfare
9. the methods of moving for insemination those livestock whose behaviour may be altered by the presence of oestrus
10. the problems that may occur after artificial insemination has taken place and how to deal with these
11. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in, or affected by, your work and how this should be done
12. your responsibilities for the welfare of livestock under relevant animal health and welfare legislation, codes of practice and business policies
13. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies
14. the records that need to be kept and the importance of completing them

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