

# Just the Facts!

## Artificial Insemination Steps

Sows should initially be inseminated 12 or 24 hours after standing in estrus, and then inseminated every 12-24 hours after for as long as they stand in estrus. Most producers inseminate gilts when they are found in standing heat, and every 12 hours thereafter for as long as they stand. Semen needs to be in the female reproductive tract 6 to 8 hours prior to ovulation. After you have determined that the female is in estrus or heat, use the following steps to aid in artificially servicing the animal.

Sperm cells survive approximately 24 hours when placed in the reproductive tract of the female. Thus, it is always better to inseminate early in the estrus phase, rather than late.

### 1. Normal surroundings

- A boar in the alleyway may make insemination easier, females often exhibit strong standing reflex in the presence of boars (due to pheromones).

### 2. Vulvar hygiene

- Clean the vulva and surrounding area with a single-use paper towel prior to insemination.

### 3. Preparing the catheters

- A catheter is used to move semen from a bottle or tube into the sow's reproductive tract.
- Keep catheter in a sealed plastic bag until required for use to prevent it from getting dirty before use.

### 4. Stimulating the sow

- The female should be stimulated to stand in a way that "mimics the actions of a boar." This can be achieved by:
  - Apply pressure on its back
  - Stimulate the flanks.
  - Massage udder

### 5. Inserting the catheter

- Keep the following steps in mind while inserting the catheter:
  1. Insert slowly
  2. Direct tip upward
  3. Rotate counterclockwise
  4. The catheter is locked into cervix when resistance is felt.

### 6. Depositing semen

- To ensure that proper artificial insemination occurs, be aware of the following procedures:
  - Do not open the semen bottle or tube until after the catheter has been inserted.
  - The goal is to get the semen in the sow's tract without backwash.
  - Allow the semen to run under gravity or let the sow draw the semen in by uterine contractions.
  - It will take 5 to 10 minutes to complete insemination.