

Proper semen handling is essential to maintain optimum reproductive performance of your A.I. breeding program. To maintain the high quality of semen you purchased from your Select Sires representative, you must pay strict attention to the many details of semen handling outlined on this poster. If you have questions about the correct handling procedures for Select Sires semen, please call your Select Sires Reproductive Solutions Specialist.

STRAW RETRIEVAL & THAWING

- Avoid raising straws above the frost line. (1)
- On new canes, bend the identification tab up to a 45° angle. (2)
- Use the forceps to remove one straw at a time from the top. If it takes more than 10 seconds to retrieve the straw, lower the canister back into the tank and allow to re-cool for 20 to 30 seconds. (3)
- Shake the straw gently to remove excess liquid nitrogen and promptly place in 95° F (35° C) water to thaw for at least 45 seconds. Thaw only as many straws as you can use in 10 to 15 minutes. When multiple straws are thawed, do not allow direct contact during thawing process. (4)
- To retrieve straws from the bottom goblet, grasp the cane and raise it until the straws are even with other cane tops. Hold the cane and canister with one hand. With your forceps in the other hand, remove the desired straw and place it in the thaw water. (5)

LOADING THE INSEMINATION GUN

- Before loading the insemination gun, pre-warm the barrel by stroking it vigorously with your hand five or six times.
- Make sure the plunger is back about six inches to allow for insertion of the straw.
- Remove the straw from the thaw water and wipe it completely dry with a paper towel.
- Check to see that the straw contains semen from the desired bull and that a small bubble is at the crimped end.
- If the bubble is not at the crimped end, gently tap the straw until the bubble moves to its correct position.
- Place the cotton plug end of the straw in the gun. It will stop at exactly the right depth.
- Wipe the scissors with a paper towel and cut the straw at a right angle ¼" below the lab seal. (6)
- Slide the plastic sheath over the straw and gun and firmly attach the sheath and gun together. (7 and 8)
- Inspect the straw end of the gun to ensure a proper seal between sheath and straw. (9)
- Wrap loaded guns in a paper towel or in a plastic sheath cover to provide both thermal and hygienic protection and place inside your clothing for transport to the cow. (10)

