Semen Thawing Procedure

Prior to thawing any semen, organize the area you will be working in and ensure all of the necessary equipment is present and clean.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equipment: Forceps</th>
<th>Breeding guns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thermos</td>
<td>“O” rings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thermometer</td>
<td>Disposable sheaths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Straw cutter</td>
<td>Paper towels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeding gloves</td>
<td>O B lube</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STEP 1**
Fill thermos with 95-degree water ½ inch from top.

**STEP 2**
With forceps, remove one straw from the goblet of the sire chosen, and place in thaw water with crimped end up. (Note: Do not thaw more than two straws at a time in one thermos. If using multiple breeders, use more than one thermos. If thawing two straws in one thermos, ensure that they are not touching.)

**STEP 3**
Leave semen in water to thaw for 45 to 60 seconds. (Note: While semen is thawing, warm the barrel of the breeding gun if necessary and pull the plunger back six inches. Partially remove a plastic breeding sheath from the container. Fold necessary amount of paper towels and put them in front trouser pocket.)

**STEP 4**
Remove a straw of semen from the thaw water and wipe it completely dry with a paper towel.

**STEP 5**
Check to see that the semen thawed is the one you intended to use and that a small bubble of air is at the crimped end. (Note: If the bubble is not at the crimped end, gently tap the straw until the bubble moves to the crimped end.)

**STEP 6**
Place the cotton end of the straw into the breeding gun.

**STEP 7**
With the straw cutter, cut the straw ¼ inch below the crimped end at a 90-degree angle.

**STEP 8**
Slide the plastic sheath over the straw and gun. Secure it to the rear of the gun with the colored plastic “O” ring.

**STEP 9**
Prime the breeding gun by moving the plunger forward slightly until the semen is at the tip of the opening gun.

**STEP 10**
Breed cow.

(Note: Prior to thawing more semen, check water to ensure a proper 95-degree temperature.)

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