
Overview

This standard covers the key features of artificial insemination in 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 delivering the insemination process and covers management of the procedure from oestrus detection and timing of service through to records. You are required to have some experience of handling adult stock, and will carry out these activities and in accordance with organisational instructions.

When working with livestock or machinery you need to be appropriately trained in line with current legislation, and hold a relevant award where appropriate.

This standard is suitable for those involved in the artificial insemination of livestock.

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Deliver artificial insemination to livestock

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

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| P1 | ensure the work area is clear and ready for use |
| P2 | collect and prepare all equipment in a safe and sterile manner |
| P3 | correctly identify livestock to be inseminated |
| P4 | move livestock to an appropriate area to be inseminated |
| P5 | carry out artificial insemination ensuring minimal discomfort to livestock and promoting animal welfare |
| P6 | return livestock to pen and observe for any unusual signs |
| P7 | carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental, health and safety legislation and animal health and welfare legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and company policies |
| P8 | deal with waste safely and correctly in accordance with legislation |
| P9 | keep accurate and up-to-date records as required by relevant legislation and the organisation |
| P10 | maintain suitable levels of hygiene and bio-security |

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

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| K1 | types of tools, equipment and materials required and how to maintain and use these safely |
| K2 | signs of oestrus in livestock and devices that can be used to aid detection |
| K3 | length of oestrus and timing of artificial insemination to achieve conception |
| K4 | correct method of artificial insemination |
| K5 | typical conditions in which livestock should be restrained for artificial insemination to promote welfare |
| K6 | methods of moving livestock for insemination whose behaviour may be altered by the presence of oestrus |
| K7 | problems that might occur after artificial insemination has taken place and how to deal with them |
| K8 | your responsibilities under current environmental, animal welfare and health and safety legislation and codes of practice |
| K9 | correct methods of disposing of waste and excess material |
| K10 | appropriate records to be kept and their significance |
| K11 | the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the methods for achieving this |

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Developed by	Lantra
Version number	4.0
Date approved	January 2013
Indicative review date	January 2018
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating organisation	Lantra
Original URN	LANCU121
Relevant occupations	Agricultural Technical Advisor; Agricultural Technician
Suite	Livestock Production
Key words	AI; cattle; sheep; semen;