

Quick Guide to Collecting Quality Semen

Collecting Semen

- Hold the male securely and comfortably.
- Stimulate male by massaging him on the abdomen with one hand and on the back, in front of the tail, with the other.
- As the male responds, push the tail up over the back and bring the other hand to the base of the erected phallus (Figure 1).
- Using the thumb and forefinger, squeeze inward and toward the phallus to expel the semen (Figure 2).
- Using an aspirator, collect the semen from the tip of the phallus (Figure 3).
- In barns with low light intensity, use an additional light with a clear glass bulb to view the semen as it is collected.
- Collect only thick, white semen.

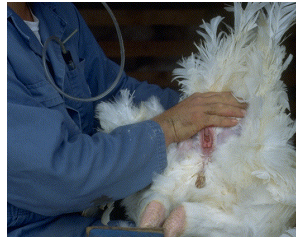


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

Do Not Collect

- **Yellow semen** – may reduce the fertilizing capacity of the entire sample.
- **Thin semen** - a low sperm count can result in reduced duration of fertility and lower overall fertility.
- **Contaminated semen** - blood, urates, feces and dirt can damage spermatozoa and reduce fertility.

Improving Semen Collection

- Handle the males gently and securely.
- Allow the males to rest at least 72 hours between collections.
- Feed the males after semen collection to reduce fecal contamination and to make collection easier.
- Make sure the time from when the first tom is collected to when the last female is inseminated for each vial does not exceed 30 minutes.
- Develop a semen collection / insemination process that ensures the semen arrives at hen barn as the previous vial is finished.
- Minimize the semen's exposure to stresses.
- When using extender add a portion of the extender to the collection vial prior to semen collection.
- Avoid adding high levels of extender to the semen.

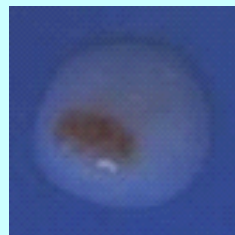
Do Not Collect



Yellow Semen



Thin Semen with Urate



Thin Semen with Feces



Bloody Semen

**Keep Semen
Collection
Equipment
Clean!**