



Goat Non-Surgical AI Workshop

An Introduction to Buck Collection and Semen Handling

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Collection of Semen from a Buck

Why do it?

- Allows buck's fertility to be estimated
- (a complete Breeding Soundness Exam would need to be done by a veterinarian)
- Timed AI may be completed on-farm with freshly collected semen
- Sale of frozen semen to other farms (???)

What does it take to collect a buck?

- Training!!!
- A safe, elevated stand
- A doe in heat
- Some semen collection equipment
- Knowledge of buck's DISEASE STATUS



• **Collection of semen from a buck may be challenging, but it is probably the easiest aspect of inseminating with your own animals' semen**

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View of room and equipment needed to evaluate, package and store buck semen

- Compound microscope (with camera attached to a flatscreen TV)
- Temperature-controlled water bath
- Liquid nitrogen tank(s) and a reliable source of Liquid Nitrogen
- Pipettors
- Disposable tubes, slides, semen straws, tweezers, etc.
- Specialized liquid media for suspending sperm cells
- Additional media for chilled or frozen semen storage



Your Semen Lab should be clean and temperature-controlled!!!

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Alternative: Use frozen semen straws from a reputable company with experience in the techniques

1. The cost to purchase a straw of buck semen is a bargain when you consider the investment in facilities, equipment and expertise
2. Take time to understand the process used to estimate each stud buck's genetic value, and how it might affect your herd
3. Always ask about the company's procedures for ensuring that their collection bucks are free of worrisome diseases
4. With purchased semen straws, your main worry will be keeping them frozen and handling them correctly during thawing and insemination (Nitrogen tank waterbath and AI equipment)
5. Access to a microscope allows you to "inspect" the quality of the straws that you purchased – might be a good idea to test a small sample from one straw within each order

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