

The Mechanics of Goat Artificial Insemination

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(IMAGES OF THE CERVICES WERE CONTRIBUTED BY DIANA WALTERS)

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We recommend that you watch the other videos
in this series before attempting to do goat AI.

The objectives of this presentation are to:

1. Demonstrate what you should be doing and seeing when you attempt trans-cervical goat AI,

and
2. Show you the mechanics of how to assess cervical mucus and pass an insemination pipette into the cervix.

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Many factors can affect the success of your efforts.

Familiarity with the anatomical structures within the doe's vagina will certainly make you more proficient at cervical insemination.

Well before the day of your first insemination, you should;

- ▶ **set up** your restraint system,
- ▶ **practice** the vaginal insertion of a speculum, and
- ▶ become familiar with the **internal structures** that you will see when attempting to find the cervical opening.

By the time that you do your first AI, your goats should already be used to your restraint system, and to the passing of a speculum while they are restrained. **This "practice" may take several sessions!**

Associating the practice session with grain treats can really help...

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Before You Breed the Doe

- ▶ **Line up some help**, and do some "Dry Runs" where you restrain goats and use the speculum
- ▶ Observe goats for standing heat (see heat detection video (LINK??))
- ▶ Make sure all your equipment is warm and ready (see equipment video (LINK??))
- ▶ Catch and restrain your goat
- ▶ Monitor your goat's cervical mucus for proper insemination consistency (**you may need to do this several times before you decide to inseminate**)
- ▶ Load your insemination gun (see semen thawing and loading video (LINK??))

Once the semen has been thawed and loaded, you will have only a few minutes to get it into the goat before it "expires", so organization is **essential**.

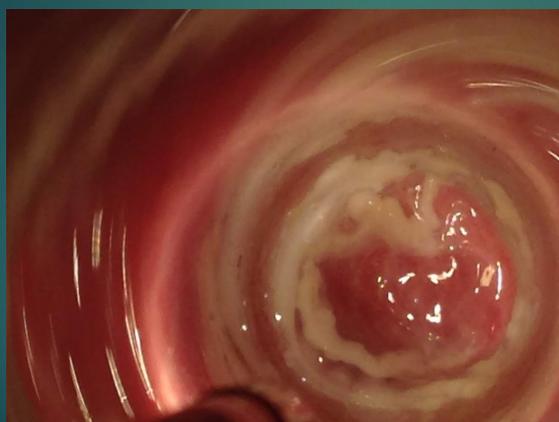
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Insert Speculum (see video – LINK??)

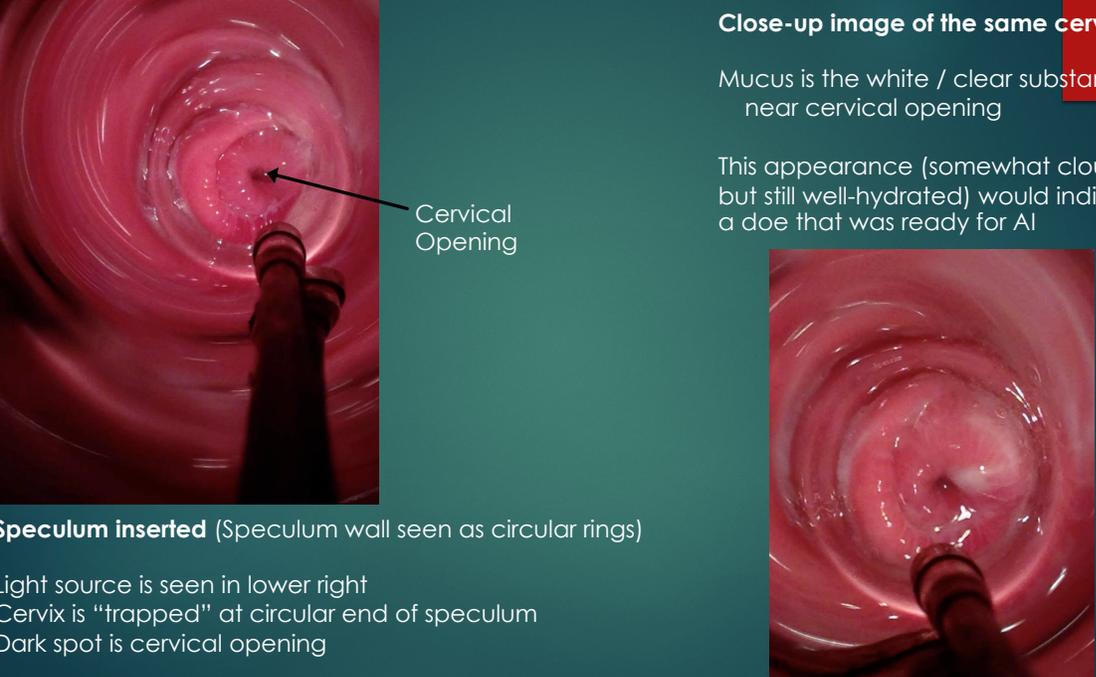
- ▶ Be sure you have your light source ready
- ▶ Put lubricant around the end of the speculum you are going to insert.
- ▶ A downward motion with the end of the speculum on the vulva sometimes helps to get it past the vulva and into the vagina.
- ▶ Insert the speculum part-way into the vagina. Look inside the vagina using your light source.
- ▶ Identify the cervix and advance the end of the speculum over the cervix so that the entire cervix is contained within the speculum.

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What Does the Cervix Look Like when using a Clear Glass or Plastic Speculum and a Light Source?



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Close-up image of the same cervix

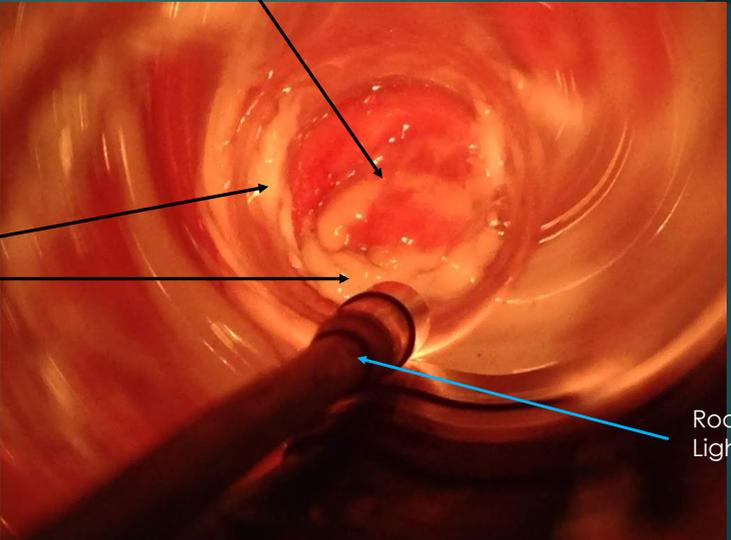
Mucus is the white / clear substance near cervical opening

This appearance (somewhat cloudy, but still well-hydrated) would indicate a doe that was ready for AI

Speculum inserted (Speculum wall seen as circular rings)

Light source is seen in lower right
Cervix is "trapped" at circular end of speculum
Dark spot is cervical opening

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Cervical Opening

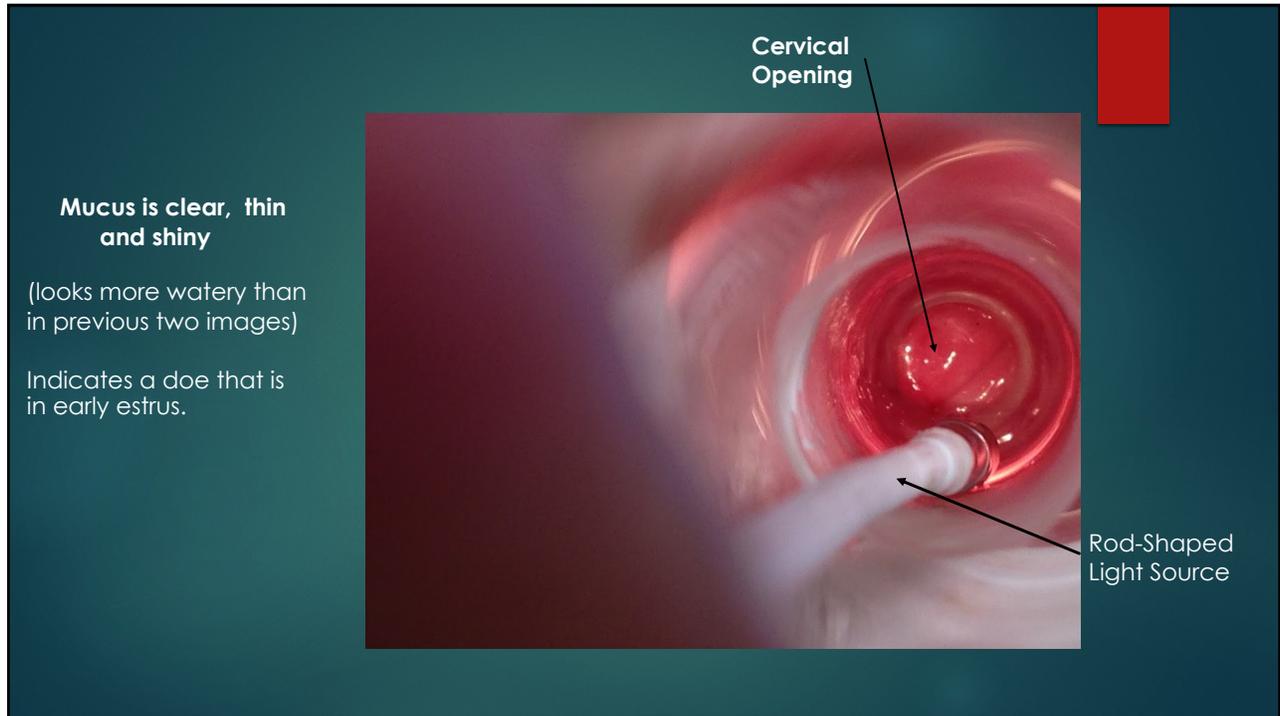
Cervical Mucus

White, Opaque, with denser consistency (like Cottage Cheese)

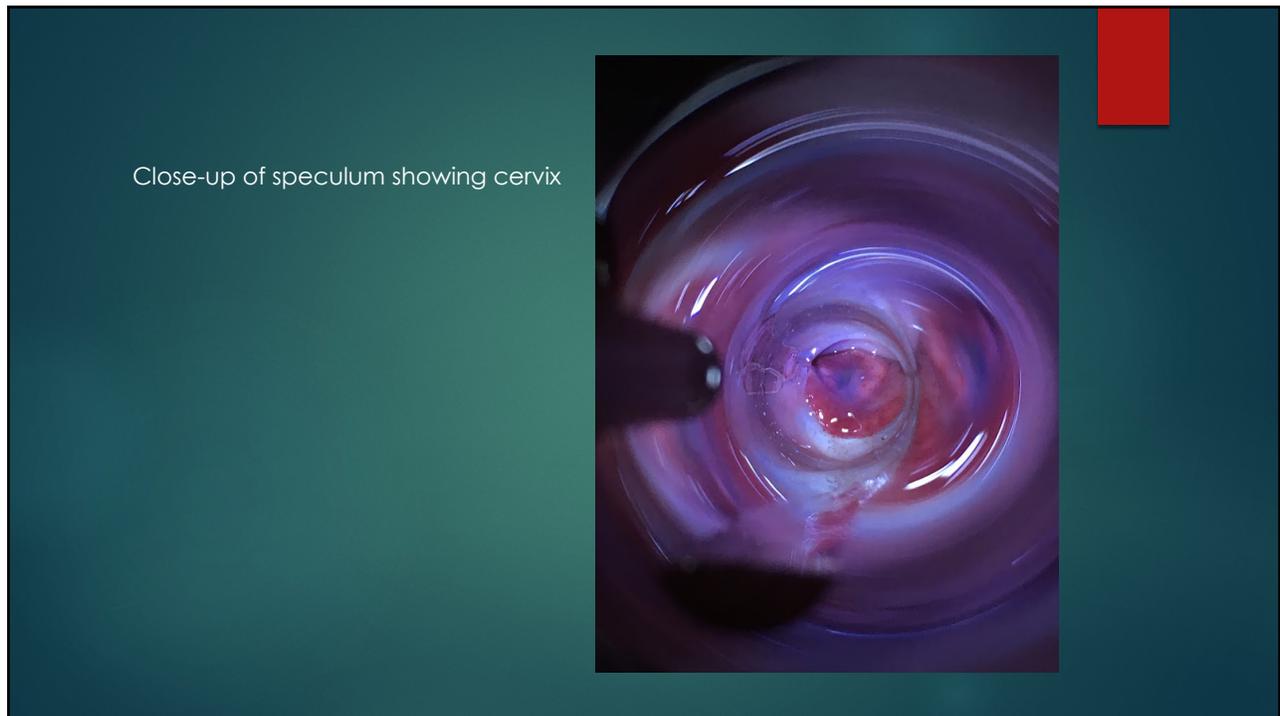
(this doe is late in estrus, and is past the optimum time for AI)

Rod-Shaped Light Source

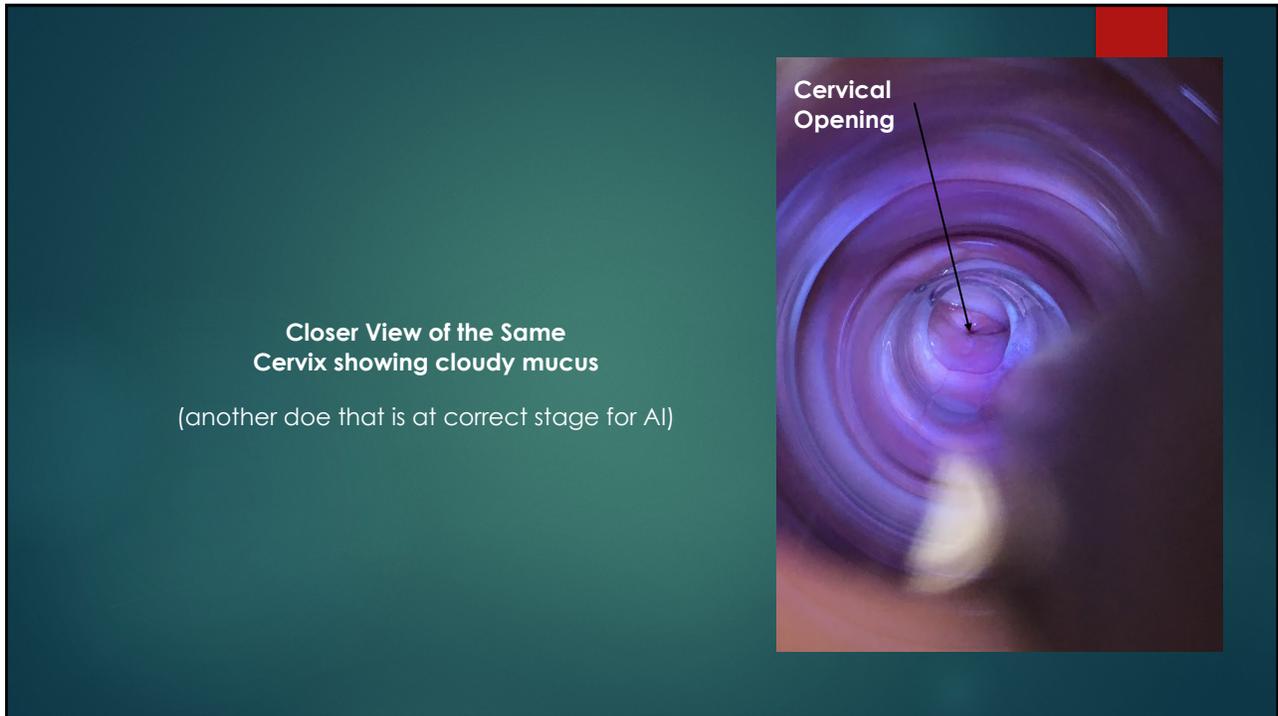
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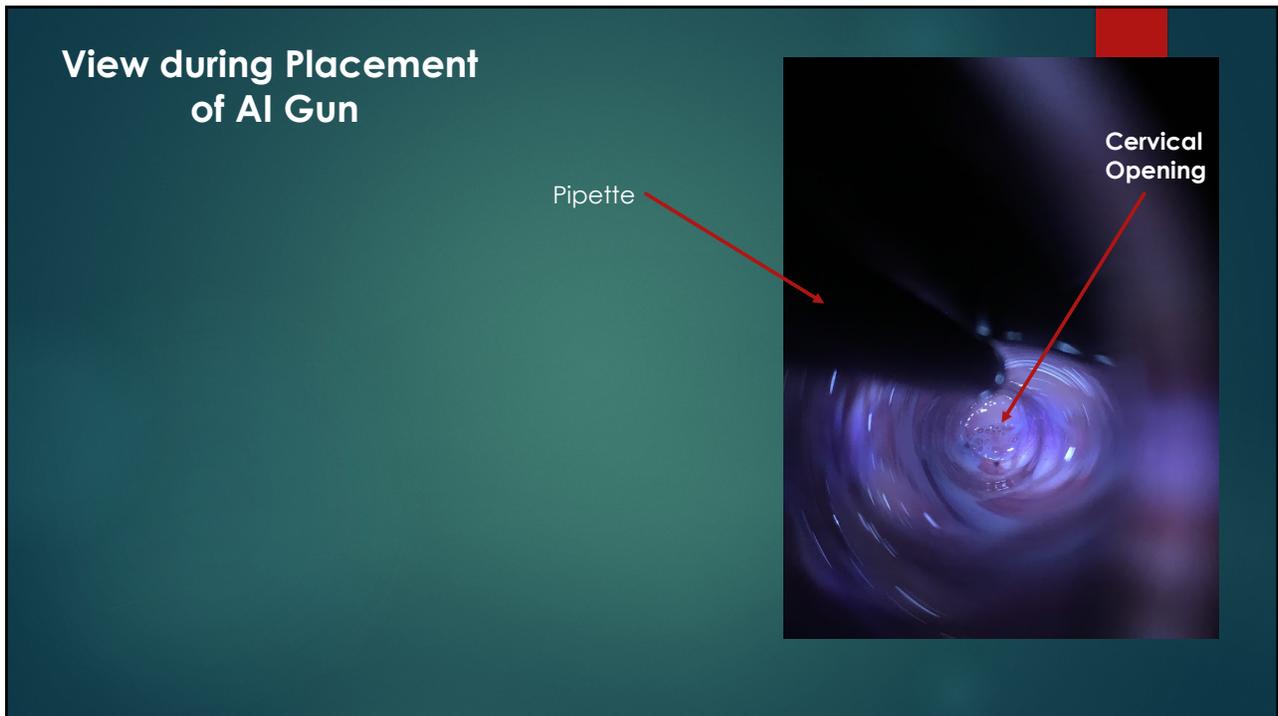
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