

Sheep Artificial Insemination Fact Sheet 8: Extender Options for Sheep Fresh Semen AI

Mix Semen with extender at around 95 F (35 C)

The commercial and homemade extender solutions are just two options so we suggest doing even more research.

1. Stallion Extender (INRA 96™ or BOTU-semen™ two possible types from Exodus

(www.exodusbreeders.com)

- Comes in a dehydrated baggie with a jar of sterile water
- Just mix them together following directions

2. Skim milk-egg yolk cooling media (USDA sheet Recipe)

- Dilute 11 grams of non-fat dried skim milk into approximately 80 ml of distilled/deionized water and heat this solution to 203 F (95 C) for 10 min.
- Allow the solution to cool to room temperature and then add 5 ml of egg yolk and enough water to bring the volume up to 100ml.
- Mix the solution until homogeneous
- Tips:
 - Be careful not to make bubbles
 - Leave enough time for it to cool to room temperature (start early)
 - Make Recipe x 5 to help mixing and heating process
 - Hard to avoid bacteria growing in this mix

When extending fresh semen a 3 parts extender to 1 part semen is a fairly safe general recommendation.

USDA Factsheet – September 2014 - Ram Semen Processing, Cryopreservation and Cervical Insemination Protocol

<https://www.ars.usda.gov/plains-area/fort-collins-co/center-for-agricultural-resources-research/plant-and-animal-genetic-resources-preservation/docs/ram-semen-processing-cryopreservation-and-cervical-insemination-protocol/>

Another SARE grant study from Ohio with Extender information

<http://www.sare.org/Learning-Center/From-the-Field/North-Central-SARE-From-the-Field/Artificial-Insemination>



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