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Recommendations to Improve Success Rate of Artificial Insemination in Cattle

- AI Kits should be checked monthly for completeness, and should include the following:
 - ✓ Tweezers/forceps
 - ✓ Scissors
 - ✓ Paper towels
 - ✓ AI Gun in good condition
 - ✓ Sheaths
 - ✓ Water Bath
 - ✓ Thermometer
- BRAC trainers continue yearly intense training of inseminators, emphasizing the following points:
 - ✓ Semen straws - lift no higher than frost line to retrieve straw.
 - ✓ Use tweezers/forceps to retrieve straw
 - ✓ Maintain semen at frost line for 5 seconds maximum.
 - ✓ Thawed at 35-37 degrees centigrade for 15 seconds minimum
 - ✓ While being held and protected in paper towel, keep semen straw well dried, cut, and loaded in gun.
 - ✓ Keep insemination gun loaded, clean, and protected from direct sunlight (either undershirt or in sewn holster).
 - ✓ Keep vulva of cow cleaned. Wipe gently with paper towel prior to entry of gun.
- Consider using a field notebook with pages (or photos) demonstrating the following: Proper AI technique, Semen handling, Signs of estrus, and Contents of a proper AI kit
- The target of breeding is always the uterine body. The exception is if the cervix is sticky, then suspect pregnancy and deposit semen mid-cervical.
- Consider using a French Straw AI gun; whichever is the easiest to use.
- Consider using LCD plastic thaw bath thermometers that are color-coded to the proper temperature.
- Encourage farmers to feed 10% of the newborn calf weight with first colostrum's from the mother. It can be fed via nursing, clean bottle, or esophageal feeding.
- Encourage calving in a clean, dry area and clean manure off mother before encouraging the calf to nurse.
- Consider using sheath protectors when breeding cows that are multiple repeat breeders. This can give you a slight increase in conception by eliminating vaginal contamination.
- AI Technicians should work within their scope of training; consulting a Breeding Specialist/Veterinarian for technical reproductive issues is vital.