

# Texas Researcher Introduces Freezing Process

A major breakthrough development in the freezing of cattle embryos was announced Jan. 19 by Rio Vista International, Inc., San Antonio, at the eighth Annual International Embryo Transfer Conference held in Denver.

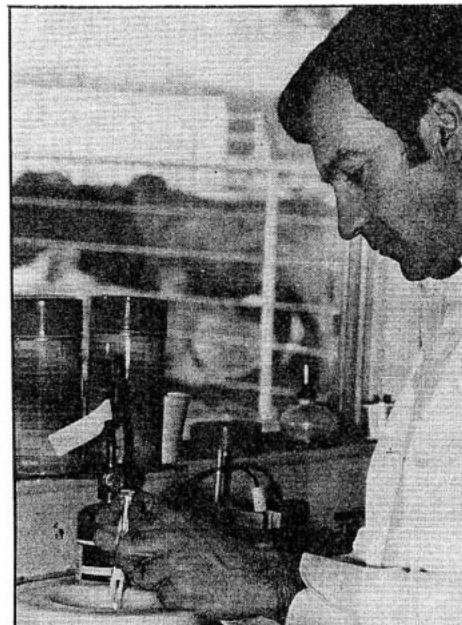
Albert West III, chairman of Rio Vista, who made the announcement said that the new process is to be called the "Rio Vista One-Step". West explained that the "One-Step" is a method by which bovine embryo-

os, collected from valuable donor cows, are frozen individually in one-fourth cubic centimeter breeding straws, stored in liquid nitrogen, then thawed and transferred into recipient cows in a manner similar to that process currently used in artificial insemination.

This means, West said, that embryos now can be planted in a recipient with the same type of personnel and equipment involved in A.I.

## Major Economic Potential

The potential of this process, developed by Dr. Stanley Leibo, head of research and development for Rio Vista, has major economic, as well as technological significance, West said. As with all successful




freezing processes, the "Rio Vista One-Step" allows for indefinite storage of frozen embryos and for their inexpensive transport.

According to West, this is the first improvement in embryo transfer technology with the potential to reduce cost. "The process is designed to be 'goof-proof' because the embryo does not have to be handled or examined during the thawing stages, thereby eliminating the need for a trained embryologist with sophisticated equipment to be present at the time of transfer." West said, "Furthermore, the new process requires less than 25% of the time currently needed to prepare frozen-thawed embryos for transfer."

## Skilled A.I. Technician Will Do

A skilled artificial insemination technician, with some additional training and practice, will be able to perform successful embryo transfers. This should be essentially important, West noted, in importing and exporting of embryos to areas of the world where there are few people trained in embryo transfer personnel. Another benefit of the "One-Step" process is that embryos can be thawed individually as recipient cows become available, drastically reducing the size, cost and management of recipient herds for embryo transfer.

West said the service will be available from Rio Vista as soon as necessary production equipment is in place at the firm's San Antonio facility, probably around March 15. 

## Estimates Put 1982 Supplies of Red Meat and Poultry Down 2%

American Meat Institute estimates that total red meat and poultry supplies in 1982 will be down 2% from a year earlier. Beef production will rise by 2%, but pork output will drop by 9% and poultry will increase relatively little. Total per capita meat supplies are estimated at 201 lb. retail weight, down seven pounds from 1981. Per capita beef supply is estimated at 77 lb., which is about the same as 1981. 