

# For Successful A.I. Being 'On Target' Crucial

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**S**uccessful A.I. depends largely on the inseminator's ability to pass an inseminating syringe through the cervix and deposit semen in the "target" area. As an inseminator in your own herd, you should recognize the "target" as the junction of the cervix and the body of the uterus.

To reach the target correctly, there are a number of precise steps you must follow in specific order. Learning and using the step-by-step procedure, as explained at all ABS A.I. management schools, is one of the keys to successful A.I. Because you should be taking just as great care to be accurate in inseminating procedures as do our professional ABS representatives, there are some reminders that can be available to you for review.

A brief explanation of "finding the target" may help you review some points if you've already been trained in A.I. If you have not been instructed in proper A.I. techniques, you should attend a qualified A.I. school to learn the specifics, which is a necessity before attempting artificial insemination.

## Preparing to find the target

Once you've selected your sires, the semen is on hand, your equipment is ready, facilities are adequate, and cattle have been successfully detected in heat—you can seriously prepare for insemination.

You should choose whichever hand feels natural for manipulating the cervix inside the rectum. A right-handed person will most likely use the left hand in the cow, while a left-handed person will probably choose the right hand.

Be sure your fingernails are trimmed. Your fingertips act as sensors inside the cow. Trimmed nails increase fingertip sensitivity and reduce chances for injuring the rectum while doing the manipulations.

You should also wear shoulder length disposable protective gloves—as well as protecting you, they prevent spreading disease organisms from cow to cow. Never reuse a glove.

As you prepare to work in the cow, develop a positive attitude. You must relax. Your elbows, shoulders, hips and knees must be at ease.

Always stand sideways behind the cow. This helps relax your shoulder,

plus it helps protect you from dangerous kicks. Remaining relaxed helps you move and step with the cow.

Before inserting the loaded syringe into the vagina, keep it in a warm, clean place that's out of the sunlight. Most people find the easiest and handiest way is to shelter the syringe between two layers of clean clothing, for example, between shirt and coverall or jacket, until it's needed.

Remember to be firm, yet gentle at the same time throughout insemination.

## Begin insemination procedure

A lubricant is not recommended unless you experience difficulty entering the cow with your gloved hand. If this is the case, a small amount of ABS A.I.

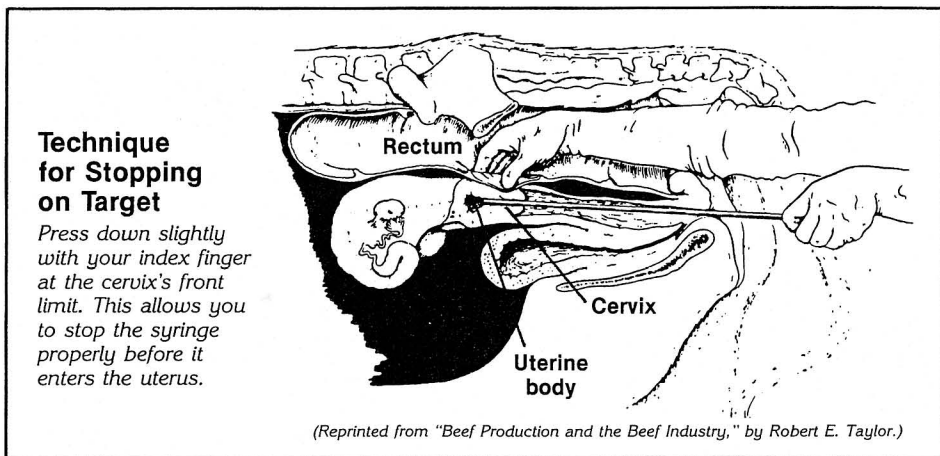
clean paper towel before inserting the syringe. Remember, the syringe should be entering the vulva at a 35 degree to 45 degree angle until the roof of the vagina is encountered, and then leveled to line up with the vaginal passageway up to the cervix.

## Manipulating the cervix

As the syringe approaches the cervix, you should think in terms of putting the cervix (or the cow) onto the syringe rather than placing the tube through the cervix. Never force, gouge or try to drill an opening with the syringe.

Most trainees find some difficulty in learning, even with good teaching materials and instructors, the technique for starting the syringe tip into the rear end of the cervical canal. This somewhat complex procedure, along with others, constitute the absolute need for hands-on learning opportunity for the A.I. technique to be adequately learned.

Once the tip of the syringe enters the cervix—lifting, tilting, rocking and roll-



lubricant or K-Y jelly can be smeared about the cow's anal opening. Do not use soaps and detergents, or lubricants containing disinfectants, because they generally irritate the cow's rectum, plus they are very harmful to sperm.

Once your arm is inserted and you have located the cervix through the sweeping motion taught at ABS A.I. schools, you should determine the width, length and consistency of the cervix. Then pick it up with your hand. Before inserting the syringe, you should have the cervix in your grasp between your thumb and fingers.

## Inserting the syringe

To help keep the cow's inside organs free from manure, discharges, bedding particles and other external contaminants, thoroughly wipe the area around the vulva and the inside lips with a

ing the cervix with minimum pressure by the thumb and fingertips at the syringe tip will keep it moving forward through the cervical canal.

## Stopping on target

To stop the syringe at the target (the point where the front end of the cervix joins the body of the uterus), put your index finger at the cervix's front limit. This is the area where the gristly cervical tissue abruptly changes into the more spongy uterine tissue.

By pressing down slightly with your fingertip, you will be able to feel the syringe tip as it passes through the last cervical ring. You've reached the target.

Safest insemination, with the highest resulting fertility, comes from depositing semen on target—not somewhere in the cervix before the target, nor in the delicate uterine tissue. **AJ**