HYGIENE DURING HEAT CONTROL AND INSEMINATION

A high level of hygiene in the insemination unit is essential to high and stable farrowing rates and optimum litter sizes.

Bacteria exist on the sow, around the outer part of the sow's vulva, and on your hands. Sterile handling during insemination is impossible, but transmission of infections between animals must be kept to a minimum.

ONLY INSEMINATE SOWS IF THEY ARE IN STANDING HEAT

Use the reduced five point plan* to find all sows in heat. Do not examine the consistency of the mucus in the vulva. That may transmit infection between sows.

Once the sow is stimulated to show the standing heat reflex, confirm standing heat by applying the backpressure test. If the sow accepts the backpressure test, it is ready for insemination. Only inseminate sows that are in heat. Insemination of a sow that is not in heat will not result in pregnancy and may lead to uterine infection, which may also affect fertility after rebreeding in the following heat.

Ensure a clean, dry and well-bedded lying area.

HYGIENE DURING INSEMINATION
The following general recommendations will lower the risk of transmitting infection between sows:

1. Make sure the lying area is clean, dry and well-bedded, to keep the sow clean at insemination.
2. Use a clean paper towel to remove dirt on the vulva.
3. Store semen, catheters, gloves and paper towels away from dust and stains.
4. Avoid high-pressure cleaning in sections holding sows. Infection may spread via droplet infection during high-pressure cleaning.
5. If you wear gloves during the insemination process, do not put on the gloves until after heat control is completed.
6. Only touch the outer 10 cm of the catheter once the protective bag is opened.
7. Part the labia of the vulva with one finger on the dry part of one of the lips.
8. Insert the foam plug into the sow without touching the dry part of the vulva.

Use a clean paper towel to remove dirt on the vulva.

Cover catheters and other materials to avoid dust and stains.

* See vsp.lf.dk

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