



## Buck Preparation for Semen Collection

Certain steps can be taken to improve chances of collecting high quality semen on-farm. The important steps are as follows:

1. Maintain your bucks in a temperature consistent environment to minimize the effects of extreme temperature changes that can stress and kill sperm cells.
2. Train your bucks to be collected in an artificial vagina (AV) by performing the following tasks:
  - a. Sit on a bucket next to your buck during feeding time so he can get used to you being at eye level.
  - b. Place your hand on his belly while sitting on the bucket to desensitize him to human touch in that region.
  - c. Periodically hand breed him to ewes in the pen that you intend to have him collected.
3. Bucks can effectively be collected via electroejaculation but semen quality is typically inferior to AV collections.
4. Bucks need to be 'cleaned out' prior to collection on-farm. To accomplish this, perform the following tasks:
  - a. Inject 1cc of estrumate into the muscle of 3-5 open ewes.
  - b. Place a breeding harness with a fresh crayon on your buck and turn him in with the ewes.
  - c. The ewes should be in heat 48-72 hours after the estrumate injection.
  - d. Record when the ewes begin to mark.
  - e. Remove the buck 72 hours before the scheduled collection date.
  - f. If multiple bucks are to be collected, place a different color crayon on each buck. Ensure that each buck has had ample breeding opportunities and should be left with the ewes no less than 24 hours.
5. If the period of sexual rest is greater than 50 days, it is recommended to 'clean out' bucks two different times prior to collection.

### Example Scenario:

<50 days of sexual rest:

- a. Day 0: Estrumate to open ewes
- b. Day 1: Harness buck with breeding crayon and place with ewes
- c. Day 2-4: Record breeding activity
- d. Day 5: Pull buck from ewes
- e. Day 8: On-farm collection