

**Protocol:** Semen Thawing Procedure

**Department:** Reproduction

**Objective:** To correctly prepare semen to breed a cow

Prior to thawing any semen, organize the area you will be working in and ensure all of the necessary equipment is present and clean.

Equipment: Forceps	Breeding guns
Thermos	“O” rings
Thermometer	Disposable sheaths
Straw cutter	Paper towels
Breeding gloves	O B lube

## STEP 1

Fill thermos with 95-degree water ½ inch from top.

## STEP 2

With forceps, remove one straw from the goblet of the sire chosen, and place in thaw water with crimped end up. (Note: Do not thaw more than two straws at a time in one thermos. If using multiple breeders, use more than one thermos. If thawing two straws in one thermos, ensure that they are not touching.)

## STEP 3

Leave semen in water to thaw for 45 to 60 seconds. (Note: While semen is thawing, warm the barrel of the breeding gun if necessary and pull the plunger back six inches. Partially remove a plastic breeding sheath from the container. Fold necessary amount of paper towels and put them in front trouser pocket.)

## STEP 4

Remove a straw of semen from the thaw water and wipe it completely dry with a paper towel.

## STEP 5

Check to see that the semen thawed is the one you intended to use and that a small bubble of air is at the crimped end. (Note: If the bubble is not at the crimped end, gently tap the straw until the bubble moves to the crimped end.)

## STEP 6

Place the cotton end of the straw into the breeding gun.

## STEP 7

With the straw cutter, cut the straw ¼ inch below the crimped end at a 90-degree angle.

## STEP 8

Slide the plastic sheath over the straw and gun. Secure it to the rear of the gun with the colored plastic “O” ring.

## STEP 9

Prime the breeding gun by moving the plunger forward slightly until the semen is at the tip of the opening gun.

## STEP 10

Breed cow.

(Note: Prior to thawing more semen, check water to ensure a proper 95-degree temperature.)