

# Recommended Minimum Standards for Artificial Insemination Training

## Why AI Training?

The objective of an AI Training School is to train each student in the area of artificial insemination. At the AI Training School, the student will receive training in the skills required to handle semen, inseminate cows and the management of a successful AI program.

Supervised instruction and guidance are essential. Without adequate training, valuable AI equipment and semen could be seriously damaged. To ensure high fertility, frozen semen requires very special storage and handling techniques be followed. Adequate training is also essential to minimize the risk of injury to either a valuable animal or to yourself.

**Insemination Technique** - Developing, through live animal practice, the ability to skillfully and accurately place semen at the proper location within the reproductive tract using sanitary and correct techniques.

**Semen Handling** - Developing through practice, the ability to properly handle, thaw and prepare for insemination, semen according to the semen-producing organizations recommendations.

**Reproductive Management** - Training in the importance of heat detection, herd health, and total herd management for the development and continued success of an AI program.

## What Should You Expect?

It is recommended AI Training Schools provide the following:

Twelve hours of classroom instruction in ...

- Anatomy of the cow.
- Demonstration of proper insemination techniques.
- Practice insemination using reproductive organs.
- Proper use and maintenance of inseminating equipment and semen storage units.
- Proper thawing and handling of frozen semen.
- Heat detection, signs of heat, methods and aids.
- Cattle identification and herd records.

Six hours of live cow insemination practice consisting of...

- A minimum of three separate session.
- Two cows per student per course, with each having access to a minimum of ten practice cows.
- A maximum of eight students per instructor.

Cow availability and school size are also factors in determining the total days required for AI training.

AI Training School tuition is another factor that will vary between sponsoring organizations. Quite often the cost of training will be discounted with equipment or semen purchases. You should inquire directly about training program packages.

Trained instructors will provide you individual guidance and assistance. During the live cow practice sessions, your instructor will repeatedly check your progress, technique, and accuracy.

Don't expect an AI Training School to do it all for you. Supervised training is just the beginning: after that, continuous practice is necessary to fully develop the required skills.

NAAB does not endorse the instruction of veterinary medicine, diagnosis and treatment by AI Training Schools.

## Where Should You Go For Training?

The location of training schools will vary considerably between sponsoring organizations.

For AI training with a focus on practical knowledge and skills, look for organizations displaying the NAAB logo. They are in the business of genetic improvement, semen production, and artificial insemination - they know the importance of proper training.

When seeking AI training, be cautious in considering a one-day school that offers a total management concept.

## What about Certification?

There is no national program for certification in artificial insemination. However, a few states have laws that govern the practice. Most organizations sponsoring AI training award a "Certificate of Attendance or Completion."

If you are uncertain as to which AI training class to attend, ask questions of both the organizations and past students. How much practice time and how many cows will be provided? What is the cost, location and number of days? Are past students satisfied with their results today? To further pursue AI certification, please visit the NAAB website under Regular Members to find an organization near you. ( <http://www.naab-css.org/about/membership.html> ).

**"Artificial Insemination is one of the most important techniques ever devised for the genetic improvement of animals."**

-Dr. Robert H. Foote  
Cornell University