



September

# BREEDING BRIEFS

2009

The 2009 breeding season is drawing to a close and there is a tendency to put breeding activities on the back burner until the new year comes. However, there are still some things that horse breeders can do to insure a successful and efficient 2010 season. Management and technology utilized this year can be used to prepare for next year's activities. Diligent management practices including appropriate vaccinations, parasite control, nutrition and dental care are key in maximizing results regardless of your breeding operation size. Additionally, technological advances in embryo and semen cryopreservation can be used to lighten the load of a demanding breeding season.

## FROZEN EMBRYOS

Embryo freezing (aka vitrification) can be used to breed mares when it is convenient and store the embryos for later use. Some advantages are:

- ☞ the ability to utilize show mares
- ☞ the use of eFSH to superovulate and potentially retrieve multiple embryos in a single flush.
- ☞ to safely store embryo & preserve genetic lines until the desired situation (ideal time frame or ideal recipient mare)
- ☞ to use stud fees about to expire

## FROZEN SEMEN

Frozen semen has advantages to mare and stallion owners alike. Semen freezing techniques and methods to breed with frozen semen have improved over the years, leading to higher conception rates and decreased cost per pregnancy. Semen freezing allows stallion owners to:

- ☞ store semen during non-breeding season
- ☞ avoid over booking
- ☞ keep stallions showing in breeding season
- ☞ have "insurance" in case of illness/injury
- ☞ ship domestic or export anytime\*

\* Semen export requires country of destination specific disease testing at the time of collection

The Reproduction Center at Pioneer Equine Hospital (RCPEH) gives stallion owners access to a USDA certified export facility. This means that biosecurity measures have been put in place to protect each stallion from emerging diseases such as Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) and Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM). Additionally, as a Select Breeders Services (SBS) network laboratory, RCPEH offers its clients centralized quality control, access to the latest procedures and products, consultation from the leading experts in the field, storage, distribution and avenues for semen export. Each step in our semen freezing process is aimed at maximizing semen quality and distributing a superior product. This results in hassle free & profitable management for stallion owners as well as satisfied mare clients & veterinarians.

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