

Livestock improvement terminology

Explaining some technical terms in the Animal Improvement Act, 1998 (Act No 62 of 1998)

Reproductive cells

Male cells (spermatozoa)

- A cattle semen straw will contain a minimum of 7 million spermatozoa.

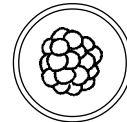


Female cell (ovum)

- The unfertilised cell is also referred to as an egg cell.

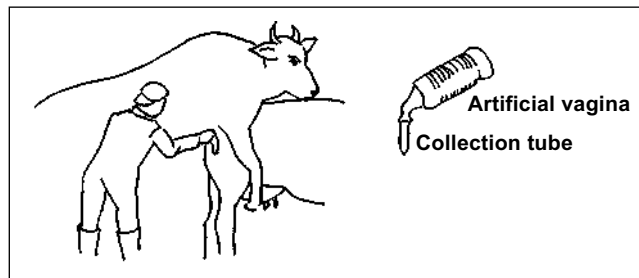


Male cell + female cell = embryo (fertilised ovum)

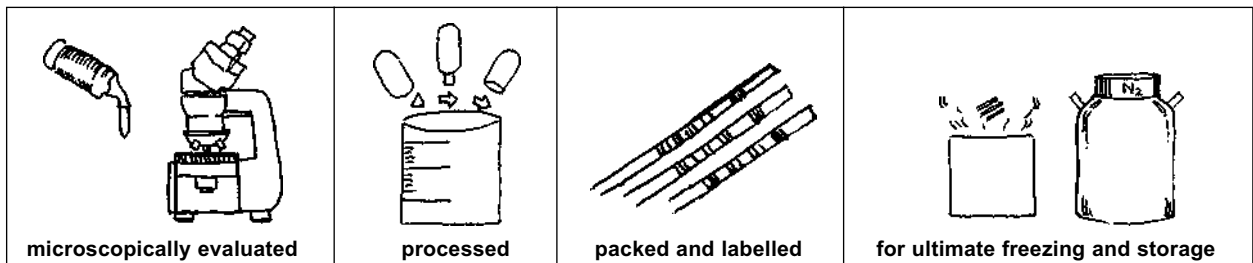


Collecting semen

Semen is collected from a donor animal.

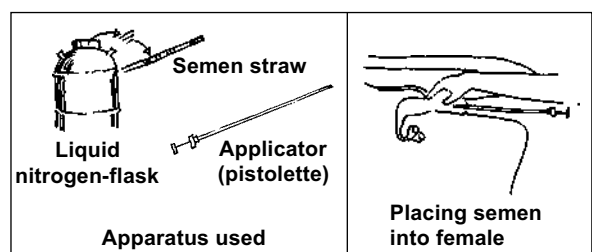


It is then:



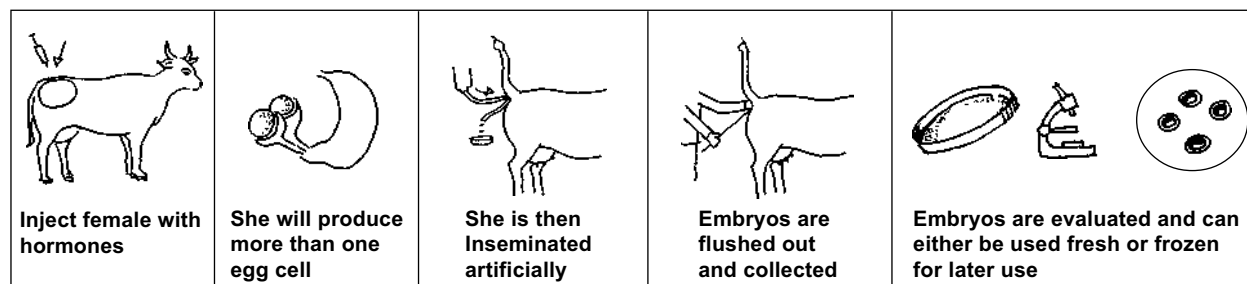
Artificial insemination

- Artificial impregnation of a female animal:
 - frozen or fresh semen is placed mechanically into the female
 - normal fertilisation can now take place.



Collecting embryos

- Preparing the donor:

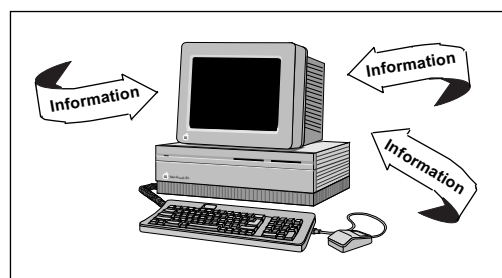


AI centres

- Artificial insemination (AI) centres are registered in terms of Section 9 of the Act.
- These centres undertake the collection, evaluation, processing, packaging and labelling of semen.
- Centres where embryos and ova are collected, evaluated and processed can also be registered.

INTERGIS

- The integrated registration and genetic information system (INTERGIS) is a central computer system developed and maintained by the South African Stud Book and Livestock Improvement Association.
- Registration data and pedigrees of beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and horses are stored on the INTERGIS.
- Data of animals participating in performance testing can be integrated with registration data. This creates a totally integrated database according to which genetic evaluations can be done.
- The INTERGIS is an open system which can be utilised by various users and countries simultaneously.



For further information, contact the
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