

Artificial Insemination specialists for Red Wattles must be approved by the Board of Directors. Boars used must also be approved and must be registered. Currently Jim Myers is the only known provider of Red Wattle semen. Your specialist will provide you with additional information and will ship all supplies needed overnight in a chilled container.

Jim Myers
8340 Clover Four Rd.
Celina, OH. 45822
419-852-1291
jmyers@watchtv.net

This information is meant to help you in the AI process at home. Times given are an average and may vary slightly. There are always exceptions.

- 1.) The tube should be fairly straight, no kinks or twists. Sometimes they curl in packaging.
- 2.) Sterile lubrication to end of tube, (bulb) may be used but is not necessary.
- 3.) Gently clean vulva area with clean moist paper towels or rags to avoid fecal matter or urine becoming introduced to a sterile area. Hold the tail up and clean. She will allow this if she's in standing heat. Her body is a sterile environment and you need to keep it that way.
- 4.) Put pressure on the back half of her back with your upper body, arms and hands. Some people sit backwards on her. She will allow this if she's in standing heat. This pressure helps her to begin the process of conception by starting uterine contractions. You may find it helpful to have another person apply the pressure to her lower back as it should be done throughout the procedure. It may also help to keep her occupied with a little feed.
- 5.) Insert tube in and at a slightly upwards angle. The urethra (urinary tract) is near so by moving in and up you avoid going into the bladder which will result in a failed breeding or possible injury. Do not force.
- 6.) Gently insert tube while turning it in a counter clockwise motion until you feel the tube lock into place or there is resistance. This could be 12 inches or more depending on her size.
- 7.) Attach the solution container to the end of tube, hold slightly upwards and give one light squeeze to get it started thru the tube. Do not continue to squeeze. At this time she should be beginning uterine contractions that will naturally draw the solution into its proper place. This stage can be from 3 to 7 minutes and difficult to see but the solution bottle will slowly collapse in itself while you're holding it up. If the solution is not naturally moving thru the tubing you should remove it and try again later. **(see important note at end of article.)**

- 8.) Remove the solution container from the tubing when empty and it appears the tubing is fairly clear. At this point some breeders withdraw the tubing and the process is complete. Other breeders will reattach the solution container now filled with air to the tube and squeeze to assure all the solution has cleared the tubing.
- 9.) To withdraw tubing gently turn and pull in a clockwise motion and remove.
- 10.) You should be provided with 2 doses. You will do the same procedure anywhere from 12 to 24 hours later.

Timing of her cycle is critical. On average she will cycle from 24 to 40 hours. This can vary a few hours either way. She will ovulate only during this time. Both ovum and sperm have a short life span.

On average she will cycle anywhere from 18 to 21 days. You should know her signs before deciding to AI. Some signs can be being more vocal, showing nervousness or anxiety, flicking of tail or pricking up of ears, lightly swollen vulva that may or may not have a discharge, a change in appetite or off feed, and other hogs in the area showing interest. Some hogs exhibit all of these characteristics, some a few and some are hard to notice so you must be observant to get to know her and also use a calendar to monitor.

She may begin to show signs up to 3 days prior to being in standing heat. Standing heat: Her body is ready to ovulate and conceive. Standing heat on average is around 36 hours and is your target. The easiest way to determine standing heat is to apply pressure to her back near her rump. She will stand if she's ready to breed. If she doesn't stand for you initially but you know she's cycling, wait an hour or two and try again.

Note

It's important that she has uterine contractions to draw in the solution. Boar sperm does not "swim" or move to her eggs. Her contractions bring the sperm to where it needs to be and the sperm use their motility to penetrate the eggs for fertilization. Do not squeeze or force the solution if it's slow or not moving. Remove tubing and try again a short while later as she may not be completely ready. Her contractions also help her to release the ovum or eggs.

She has 2 horns or uterus. A second dose is used to assure both horns are serviced and the fertilization window is covered.

You may find additional helpful information by reading Breeding 101 in the tutorial section of our website.