

## RAM SEMEN FREEZING

### Pellets

At South Wales Farm Vets we freeze ram semen in pellet form. These can be graded into two categories:

- **P2 Pellet** – This contains enough motile sperm to inseminate two ewes and is the most common form on pellet semen available.
- **P1 Pellet** – This historically is a pellet of poorer quality semen which has been downgraded from a P2 to a P1. It contains enough motile sperm to inseminate one ewe

### Freezing Process and Results

Ideally we collect semen using an artificial vagina and a teaser ewe. This method improves semen quality. Some rams however do not perform (see training below) and we may resort to use of electro ejaculation which carries a small amount of risk.

These risks include:

- Damage to the ram's spine and or reproductive system.
- Damage to the rectum.
- Failure to obtain a suitable semen sample.

Any semen will be analysed post collection (further jumps may be required depending on quality of semen). This semen is then extended and chilled, it is reassessed throughout this process. The semen is then frozen in 0.25ml pellets and stored in liquid nitrogen. A pellet will then be thawed from that batch and analysed.

We take every effort to maintain semen quality, however each step in the process can affect this. Some ram semen requires differing concentrations of extender to preserve semen quality. This can take some trial and error, with multiple jumps required.

### Ram Training

Some rams are keen to work, others are more timid with someone in the pen. Get your ram used to being handled and used to having someone in a pen with him. If possible having a ewe haltered in the pen for him to mount etc while someone is also in the pen is the ideal training.



***Living And Working In Your Community***

Before Arrival and Planning for Semen Collection

- Please shear his belly
- Ensure he is fit and well
- Ensure he is of an appropriate body condition score ie 3-4/5 (fit not fat)
- Make sure he is up to date on all worming/fluke products plus trace elements
- Not to have worked with ewes within the last week
- If bringing multiple rams it aids pen space if they are well acquainted and socialised. If this is not possible inform us before their arrival

MV Status

We can collect from both MV and non-MV rams, with separate sheds available for housing. Please present up-to-date MV certificates at arrival.