



Select Breeders Southwest, Inc.

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Have you ever made these statements regarding your stallion:

1. We can't ship semen this year because we have to campaign our stallion in the show ring.
2. We won't be able to ship you semen today because there wasn't enough to ship to everyone.
3. I'm sorry we won't be able to collect our stallion because he was injured.
4. I'm sorry you called too late, we already collected the stallion this morning.
5. We only have one mare to breed. I wish we didn't have to throw out the rest of the semen.
6. I wonder how we can increase the market for our stallion?
7. If only we had frozen semen on our stallion before he died.

If you have made any one of these statements before it might be to your benefit to have a test freeze done on your stallion. All of the above scenarios could be eliminated with the use of frozen semen in your breeding program. There are several advantages to the use of frozen semen:

1. Stallions need not be available for on-demand collections, allowing for involvement in performance events during the breeding season.
 2. Frozen semen can be stored indefinitely, ready to be used when needed.
 3. Easy scheduling of semen shipments
 4. No wasted semen from a collection
 5. Can be used as a tool for breeding (not enough fresh or cooled semen from a collection, use frozen)
 6. Illness, injury or death of a stallion does not prevent insemination of mares with his semen.
 7. International Distribution – once qualified for export frozen semen can be distributed worldwide.
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Have you ever made these statements regarding breeding a mare with frozen semen:

- Mares need to be palpated every 4 hours.
- The conception rate with frozen semen is so much lower than breeding with fresh or cooled semen.

Most stallion and mare owners have made these statements before. However, **these myths are not true**. Like most myths, they are not based on fact.

1. *Simple, effective protocol when breeding with frozen semen*

- Once the mare comes into Estrus, palpate and or scan daily to monitor follicular activity. Upon detection of a large (35 – 40mm) pre-ovulatory follicle, administer hCG or Ovuplant.
- Continue to examine the mare via ultrasound once daily and inseminate a single dose of frozen semen approximately 24 hours after hCG administration.
- Examine the mare approximately 16 hours after insemination and inseminate a second dose of frozen semen even if the mare has already ovulated.
- Examine the mare the following day to confirm ovulation. Insemination of a third dose may be required if the mare has still not ovulated.

2. *Fertility results with Cooled vs. Frozen Semen (Loomis, P.R., 2001. The Equine Frozen Semen Industry Animal Reproduction Science 68, 191-200.)*

- The pregnancy rates of cooled and frozen semen were evaluated during the 1999 and 2000 breeding seasons.
- Cooled semen pregnancy rates were obtained from three commercial transported cooled semen programs in which semen from 16 stallions was used to inseminate 850 mares throughout North America by local veterinarians.
- Frozen semen pregnancy rates were obtained following insemination of 876 mares with frozen semen from 106 different stallions processed by Select Breeders Service, Inc. and distributed through their commercial distribution program.
- PREGNANCY RATES:
 - Cooled Semen: First Cycle 59.4 % Seasonal 74.7 %
 - Frozen Semen: First Cycle 51.3 % Seasonal 75.6 %