

Artificial Insemination

The use of artificial insemination has expanded within Canada in recent years. Current practice is to utilize fresh semen but frozen semen is available. Although artificial insemination is not commonplace it is

expected to become an integral part of a breeding program as breeders become more familiar with handling techniques. Embryo transfer is another reproduction method on the horizon.

Steps to Success

A successful commercial swine operation depends on:

- (a) the use of high performance foundation stock selecting the best animals the breeder can afford;
- (b) ensuring that the foundation stock and offspring are kept free of disease;
- (c) providing proper nutrition in the feed;
- (d) choosing the grandparent stock in the cross-breeding program with care and picking the best in the litter for subsequent breeding.

Freedom from Disease

Freedom from animal disease is essential to the efficient production of meat. In the swine industry it is particularly important because of the intensive production. Close association of large numbers of animals, the arrangement of buildings, the flow of inputs, the disposal of waste,

day-to-day sanitation and the introduction of breeding stock, all require careful attention. Modern production facilities lend themselves to a rapid spread of any disease introduced into the herd. It is important to ensure the stock you purchase is free from disease.