

PROGRESSIVE MOTILITY AT THAWING AS A CRITERION TO EVALUATE GOAT FROZEN SEMEN

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Semen was evaluated to predict fertility achievable with its use. Assessing of frozen semen should be a rapid, cheap, sensible practice, and it should have high repeatability. Evaluation of progressive motility (PM) and vigour (V), both at thawing, meets the needs above mentioned. An experiment was carried out to determine the desirable level of PM, which could promote high fertility and reduce the semen wastage.

Semen was collected from a mature Brown Alpine buck using an artificial vagina and frozen by usual methods. Semen samples that showed $V > 2.0$ after thawing were used. Eighteen, 12 and 7 shipments of semen with PM > 30% (T₁), 40% (T₂) and 50% (T₃), respectively, were used in a field trial of artificial insemination. Kidding rates were 66.6%, 75.0% and 71.4%, respectively, in T₁, T₂ and T₃. Differences among treatments were not significant ($P > 0.05$). Under conditions presented, 30% should be used as minimum level of PM at thawing. This would avoid waste of most of semen samples processed. This practice may reduce the production cost of goat frozen semen without impairing kidding rate of inseminated does.

Key words : Kidding rate, Semen freezing