

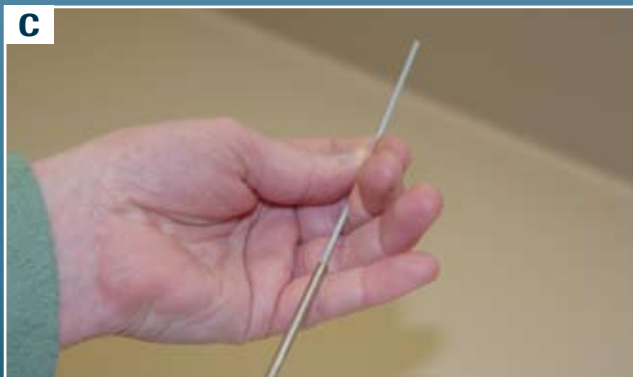
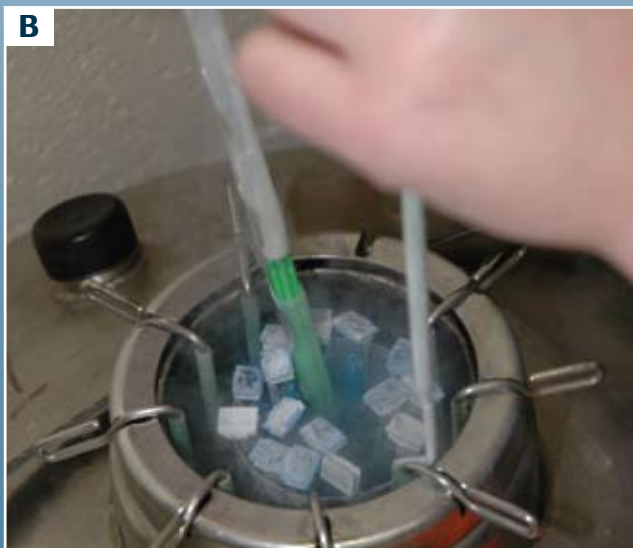
# test your ATTENTION TO THE DETAILS

By: Angie Kringle, Communications Specialist, CRI

The process of artificial insemination (A.I.) includes a series of detailed semen handling steps. Whether it's been a few years or a few months since your last A.I. refresher, this test will help remind you of the important details.

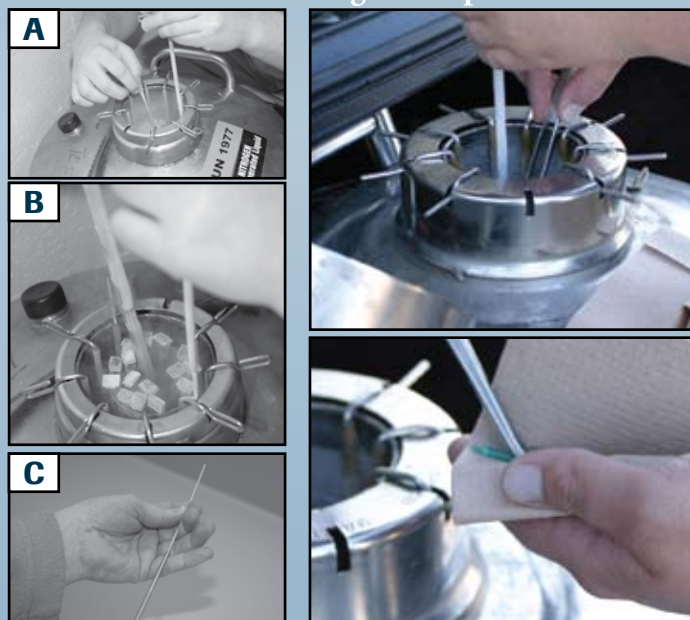
Check out the photos below and see if you can pick the element that is out of place. When you've determined what is wrong with these photos, check your results on the next page!

**Don't try this at home! The photos pictured on this page illustrate the WRONG way to handle semen. Turn the page to view the correct semen handling methods.**



**Follow the examples illustrated by the colored photos for proper semen handling technique.**

**Minimize Semen Handling and Exposure**



**Answer A:** Use tweezers. **Answer B:** Raise the canisters just high enough to grasp the straws. **Answer C:** Utilize a paper towel to protect the straw.

Due to the intense processing of semen, handle the straws with care. Raise the canister just high enough to grasp the straw with tweezers. Do not handle the frozen straws with your fingers.

Don't jeopardize the rest of the semen in your tank by holding the canister in the raised position for too long. Try to keep the canister in the neck tube for no longer than eight seconds. Do not raise the canister above the frost line.

Protecting the straw with a paper towel will eliminate the moisture on the outside of the straw while also protecting the straw from the sun.

**Place Straw in Warm Water Bath**



**Answer D:** Thaw in 90-95°F warm water bath for at least 45 seconds

Correct water temperature is imperative when using the warm water bath. Semen should be thawed at 90-95°F for at least 45 seconds.

**Place Sheath Over Insemination Gun**



**Answer E:** Maintain a clean environment by removing the sheath from the bag immediately before loading the gun.

Don't introduce additional bacteria to the reproductive tract by holding the sheath in your mouth. Remove it from the package and place it directly on the gun. Replace the warmed gun in a glove inside your shirt (as shown below) to ensure the environment remains clean.

**Transport Loaded Gun**



**Answer F:** Don't thaw more straws than can be used in 15 minutes.

Loading too many guns drastically shortens the window of time for semen to remain viable. It is important that the insemination occurs within 15 minutes of the time the straw was removed from the tank.

Did you catch all the details? If you were stumped by a couple of them, maybe it's time for an A.I. refresher. Ask your Genex representative if there are upcoming clinics in your area. If you aced this test, congratulations! You've mastered the details of semen handling! Keep up to date by reading *Horizons* for the latest industry advancements.

**AUTHOR BIO**

Angie Kringle is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. She grew up on a dairy farm in northwestern Wisconsin and interned at the GENESIS MOET facility before becoming the Communications Specialist.

