



AVAREBIOTECH

FREE FIELD GUIDE

# 10 AI mistakes that kill your conception rate

You bought good semen and ran the protocol — but cows still come up open. Most of the time it's one small mistake in handling or timing. Here are the ten that cost you the most, and how to fix each one.

## THE ONE MOST PEOPLE SKIP

### **Check semen quality right before you breed — in the field**

The lab report came days ago, from another place. Mistake #10 is trusting it blindly. With MAKSA you get an objective motility and concentration reading in 30–60 seconds on your phone — no CASA lab, no guesswork. Turn "I hope it's good" into "I know it's good."

## 10 AI MISTAKES

### 01 Thawing semen at the wrong temperature

Frozen semen must thaw at the right heat. Too cold and the sperm never fully wake up; too hot and you cook them. Either way, conception drops.

- ✓ **Fix.** Use a real thaw unit with a thermometer. Set it to 95°F (35°C) and time every straw for 30–45 seconds. Every straw, every time.

### 02 Thawing too many straws at once

Thawing a handful to breed a row of cows feels faster, but it is a quiet conception killer — straws sit and degrade while they wait.

- ✓ **Fix.** Thaw one straw at a time. Only thaw what you can use in the next 10–15 minutes. Breeding a big group? Thaw as you go.

### 03 Waiting too long after thawing

Once a straw is thawed, the clock is running. Thawed sperm are fragile and the window is short — they need to reach the cow fast.

- ✓ **Fix.** Have everything ready before you thaw: gun, sheath, paper towel, gloves, cow in the chute. Thaw, load, breed — in that order.

### 04 Cold shock on the way to the cow

You thawed perfectly, then carried the loaded gun across a cold yard and the semen chilled on the walk. Cold shock damages sperm.

- ✓ **Fix.** Warm the gun before loading by rubbing it with a paper towel. In cold weather, carry the loaded gun against your body until you reach the cow.

### 05 Letting water touch the semen

Plain water is lethal to a thawed straw — and so is any soap or detergent. A single drop on your scissors or a wet towel can ruin the dose.

- ✓ **Fix.** Dry the straw completely after the water bath before you cut it. Keep your tools dry and use only approved, non-spermicidal products.

## 10 AI MISTAKES

### 06 Breeding at the wrong time

Perfect semen, perfect handling, wrong hour — still an open cow. The egg is only available for a short window tied to the cow's heat.

- ✓ **Fix.** Detect heat carefully and write down the time of first standing heat. Breed about 12 hours later. Better heat detection means better timing.

### 07 Pulling the straw from too high in the tank

The tank protects straws below the frost line. Lift the canister above it and the straws start to warm — losing quality before they reach the cow.

- ✓ **Fix.** Keep the canister below the frost line while you find your straw. Use tweezers, not fingers, and work quickly.

### 08 Letting untrained people breed cows

On busy days it is tempting to hand the gun to anyone. But poor placement and a tired, sloppy hand drop conception fast.

- ✓ **Fix.** Only let trained people breed. If you are training, go slow. Don't let one person breed so many cows in a row that they get sloppy.

### 09 Breeding stressed cows

Loud yards, prods, shouting, long waits, rough handling, and extreme heat or cold all raise stress — and a stressed cow is harder to settle.

- ✓ **Fix.** Make AI day calm: solid-sided chutes, small groups, gentle handling, no shouting, no prods. Give heat-stressed cows shade and water.

### 10 Not checking semen quality at the point of use

You trust a lab report made days ago, somewhere else. The dose that reached your farm may have degraded in transit.

- ✓ **Fix.** Check motility at the point of use, right before you breed. A quick objective reading turns "I hope it's good" into "I know it's good."