

## **Bovine Uterine Fluid Sample**

### **Objective**

To sample fluid from the uterus of cows for testing/analysis.

### **Alternatives to animal use**

Abattoir specimens could be sampled; however the results may not be consistent with live animal sampling.

### **Details of Procedure**

The cow should be adequately restrained in a crush and head bale, and preferably a vet gate, to prevent injury to the operator. Low stress stock-handling techniques should be utilised and should be identifiable to prevent repeated sampling. The cervix will be traversed with a uterine infusion pipette and the pipette tip works slowly back and forth as slight negative pressure is placed on an attached syringe. 200 uL to 200mL; and a lavage method can be used for obtaining the sample, is required for sampling. The cows will be in oestrus, since this is the stage of the oestrus cycle that is of interest when cows are artificially inseminated.

Uterine pH probes can be inserted into the uterus utilising the inserted pipette in order to obtain pH readings as necessary.

### **Drugs, chemicals or biological agents**

None required

### **Impact of procedure on wellbeing of animal(s)**

The procedure is similar to artificial insemination which is well tolerated without anaesthesia or analgesia.

### **Reuse and repeated use**

Sampling will only be carried out once on the selected cows. Unless in a research trail, or for pathological analysis, then sample daily for up to 28 days as necessary.

### **Care of animals during/ after procedure(s)**

The procedure should be stopped for cows showing any signs of undue distress. The animals will then be observed for approximately 5 minutes post-procedure.

### **Pain relief measures**

None required

### **Qualifications, experience or training necessary to perform this procedure**

Experience with artificial insemination and restraint of cattle with a thorough understanding of anatomy of the bovine reproductive tract.

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/animal-welfare/general>