Teagasc Pig Development Department **Skills Series**

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION PROCEDURE

10 STEP PROCEDURE

YOU WILL NEED:

- Semen bag
- Catheter & lubricant
- Sandbag/Sow buddy
- Gloves
- Spray marker
- Notebook

1. Leave the sow in the service stall. Provide close contact with a boar.

2. Place a sandbag or Sow buddy on the sow.

3. Wash and dry hands, clean the vulva with paper towel, do not use antiseptic solutions.

4. Invert semen bag two or three times. Take the bag with one wing held firmly by each hand, gently pull the two wings apart. Continue until the catheter entry hole is open. Insert catheter shaft into the sachet by a pushing and twisting motion, it should make a tight leak-proof seal with the bag wall.

5. Lubricate the tip of the catheter with a non-spermicidal jelly or liquid paraffin.

6. Insert the catheter gently at an upward angle (to avoid entry into the urinary tract) into the vagina using gentle pressure and a twisting action (anti-clockwise) until it is firmly locked in the cervix. Pull back the catheter to ensure that it is firmly secured in the cervix.

7. Invert the sachet and raise with one hand while the other hand is used to apply pressure on the sow's back to aid stimulation. It is not necessary to force semen from the bag as the sow will draw the semen from the bag by means of natural contractions of the uterus. Service will usually take from 2-5 minutes in total.

8. Leave the catheter and sandbag/pig buddy in place for 5-10 minutes after insemination to aid sow stimulation and minimise any backflow of semen. Kink the end of the catheter shaft that is protruding from the vulva and hold this kink by inserting it into the strengthened plastic ring at the top of the semen bag.

9. Remove the catheter by unlocking it from the cervix and withdraw it carefully.

10. After insemination leave the sow for 20-30 minutes undisturbed in quiet surroundings.

REMEMBER TO RECORD:

AI Boar/Pool, Sow ID, Service Date



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.TEAGASC.IE/ANIMALS/PIGS