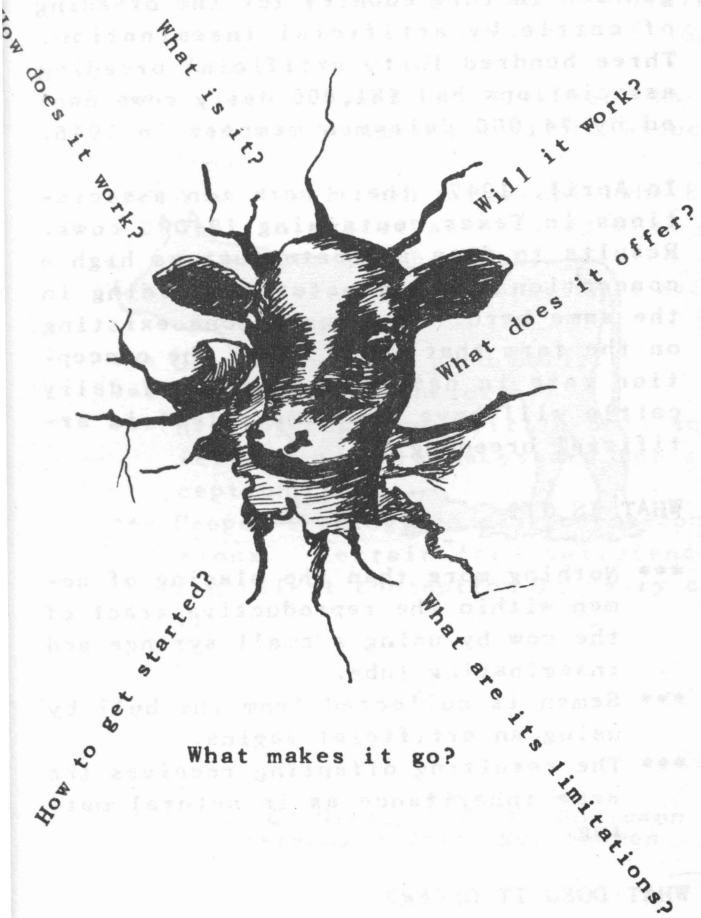


# ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION OF DAIRY CATTLE



Issued by  
 The Extension Service  
 Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and  
 The United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating  
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## ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION OF DAIRY CATTLE

In 1938 the first associations were organized in this country for the breeding of cattle by artificial insemination. Three hundred forty artificial breeding associations had 581,000 dairy cows owned by 74,000 dairymen members in 1946.

In April, 1947, there were ten associations in Texas containing 12,000 cows. Results to date indicate just as high a conception rate as natural breeding in the same herd. Any conditions existing on the farm that would lower the conception rate in natural breeding of dairy cattle will have the same effect in artificial breeding.

### WHAT IS IT?

- \*\*\* Nothing more than the placing of semen within the reproductive tract of the cow by using a small syringe and inseminating tube.
- \*\*\* Semen is collected from the bull by using an artificial vagina.
- \*\*\* The resulting offspring receives the same inheritance as in natural mating.

### WHAT DOES IT OFFER?

- \*\*\* Wider use of good bulls. As many as one hundred cows might be bred from a single collection.
- \*\*\* Services of good bulls become available to dairymen who could not afford to own them.
- \*\*\* Aids in controlling certain genital diseases.
- \*\*\* Furnishes a complete breeding record for the members.
- \*\*\* Bulls can be proved at a younger age.
- \*\*\* Spreads the risk involved in proving young bulls.

- \*\*\* Eliminates the necessity for keeping a bull.
- \*\*\* Controlled breeding means having cows freshen as desired.
- \*\*\* Permits the safe breeding of large bulls to young heifers.
- \*\*\* Better dairy cattle in a community which means more prosperous dairy farmers.

#### HOW DOES IT WORK?

- \*\*\* Semen is collected at the bull stud and is shipped to the local associations.
- \*\*\* Upon arrival, the semen is received, and examined by the local technician.
- \*\*\* Technician remains at headquarters until around 10 o'clock receiving calls for service.
- \*\*\* Technician plans his route to make the calls with the least mileage.
- \*\*\* Dairymen continue to report during the day cows observed in heat after 10:00 a.m.
- \*\*\* Upon arrival at a farm, the technician identifies cows to breed, breeds them and fills out a breeding receipt for each cow which is left with the dairyman.
- \*\*\* Technician returns to headquarters, picks up late calls for service. If not sufficient time that day, these calls get priority the next day.
- \*\*\* After the day's breeding, the technician washes and sterilizes equipment and works up records on all herds visited.



## WHAT ARE ITS LIMITATIONS?

- \*\*\* It is not a cure-all for breeding troubles. It is a safe-guard against the spread of certain diseases.
- \*\*\* Bulls used for this type of service must be selected with caution. Great harm could result from the wide use of the wrong kind of bulls.
- \*\*\* A well trained technician is essential. Clean sterilized equipment must be used. Semen must be properly handled.

## HOW TO GET STARTED:

- \*\*\* An association is formed headed by a responsible group of officers and directors.
- \*\*\* At least 1200 cows should be enrolled for service to insure adequate income.
- \*\*\* Arrangements are made for securing semen.
- \*\*\* An approved technician is hired.
- \*\*\* Approval of the association is necessary in order for calves resulting from artificial insemination to be registered with their respective dairy breed associations.
- \*\*\* Headquarters is located. Starting date for service is set.
- \*\*\* Members are given proper notice of arrangements for service.
- \*\*\* Necessary equipment and report forms are obtained.
- \*\*\* Remember that this type of service can be maintained only through the continued cooperation of a group of dairymen sufficient to underwrite the cost of operation.

## WHAT MAKES IT GO?

- \*\*\* Sufficient income from breeding fees to pay operating costs. (approximately \$6,000 per year: obtained from 1000 first services at \$6.00 each.)
- \*\*\* An active board of directors to attend to the business of the association.
- \*\*\* A well informed membership who know what to expect as well as what not to expect of the work.
- \*\*\* The wholehearted cooperation of everyone concerned.
- \*\*\* Good semen from good bulls.
- \*\*\* A qualified technician.
- \*\*\* Healthy cows. A fertile bull and a fertile cow are necessary for conception.
- \*\*\* Proper feeding and management conditions. Certain feed deficiencies can affect conception in dairy cattle.

by  
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