

# Quality Semen Collection



In preparation for milking, it is essential that the male turkey is picked up with minimum struggle to get the best quality and quantity of semen.



For both "bench" and "floor" methods of milking, catch the male turkey's leg in one hand and the wing in the other hand to prevent the male turkey from struggling. Both legs of the bird should then be held together firmly in place.



Massage the soft part of the male turkey's abdomen with the free fingers and thumb of left hand.



As you massage the male turkey's abdomen, the male turkey's tail is pushed back over its back with the heel of the right hand. The male turkey can be further stimulated with the palm passing gently over the vent in the same sequence.



In a series of simultaneous movements, the heel of the left hand maintains the pressure on the tail head until the thumb and index finger of the left hand are in position to squeeze behind the phallus.



Use the index finger of the right hand to place pressure below the phallus. The pressure applied will determine the flow of semen. It is very important to place the thumb and index finger behind the protruded phallus in order to squeeze the bulbous ductus.



Semen is then collected only off the end of the phallus. Care must be taken to apply an aspiration rate that will pick up the semen slowly and carefully.