

Artificial Insemination

Artificial Insemination is crucial to ensuring the production of fertile eggs. It is important to remember that a female bird producing eggs is a pregnant bird and should be treated with care. Below you will find four key areas of focus to ensure successful insemination.

The Goal: To obtain and maintain high levels of fertility



Timing:

- Uniform flocks should start insemination 14–17 days post lighting, which should be the day before or the day of the first anticipated egg
- At least 95% of birds should be ready at this point
- Complete the first three(3) inseminations within eight (8) days
- After the initial eight(8) days, inseminations can be on a weekly basis until the end of lay



Process

- Check semen quality to ensure that it is clean and fresh
- There are many methods that can be used for insemination: 1) chair, 2) pit, 3) kneeling on the ground
- Identify and move potential broody birds into a separate pen
- If you observe semen on the outside of the oviduct after injection, you are not injecting deep enough
- Ensure every hen is inseminated



Welfare

- Catch hens by both legs and handle gently to avoid harm
- If the hymen (white bubble) is intact, do not force the insemination tube into the bird as this can cause wounds and infection
- Take care not to insert the tube deep into the oviduct as it can cause internal harm



Sanitation

- Only use disposable semen straws
- Clean and sanitize all equipment between use

This sheet is intended as a reference and supplement to your own flock management skills. For additional information on each of the essentials referenced please visit resources.hybridturkeys.com or contact our technical team at hybrid.tech@hendrix-genetics.com