



Effect on Field Fertility of Addition of Gelatine, Different Dilution Rates and Storage Times of Cooled Ram Semen After Vaginal Insemination.

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Abstract: Contents In a field trial, 633 ewes from 24 farms were inseminated vaginally using liquid semen (150 x 10(6) per dose) collected from 15 rams. The semen was either diluted with a milk-based extender (M), filled in 0.2 ml straws and stored for 12 or 24 h (M12, M24) or diluted with M but with the addition of gelatine, filled in 0.5 ml straws and stored for 12 or 24 h (G12, G24). The hypothesis was that a larger volume and the addition of gelatine would prolong the survival of the spermatozoa. The ewes, aged between 6 months and 5.5 years, were allocated into four groups and inseminated after natural oestrus by the farmers themselves with a dose of 150 x 10(6) spermatozoa. Inseminations in the groups (M12, M24, G12, G24) resulted in lambing rates of 69.6%, 63.6%, 69.4% and 58.3% (overall 65.2%), respectively. Farmer (p

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