

RWHA Artificial Insemination Protocol

5/11/2013

For the purpose of the Red Wattle Hog Association the definition of a semen company is any one individual or company that collects red wattle boar semen for implantation, or anyone that buys semen to inseminate, and/or the collection and insemination in ways other than natural methods of live cover.

1. Any boar approved for the AI program must be approved by the RWHA board. He must meet all the requirements for a blue card boar.
2. Only boars that are fully registered through the Red Wattle Hog Association shall be used for the AI program. Recovery boars may not be used for the AI program until such time that the genotype for the Red Wattle has been identified and the recovery boar would test to be a minimum of 85% pure Red Wattle.
3. All boars approved for AI will have 5 pictures submitted to the RWHA board. The pictures submitted must show the left side, right side, directly from the front, directly from the rear. These pictures must clearly show the legs of the boar. An Additional picture looking down on the back of the boar showing the entire back from head to tail must also be submitted.
4. Any company that owns a boar to be used in an AI program and will be performing the semen collection will not have to be a member in order to have the piglet registered. The owner of the sow who farrows the litter from a successful insemination will be required to be a member of the RWHA to register offspring.
5. Each boar approved will have the pictures permanently posted on the Red Wattle Hog Association website along with the lineage of each boar. These pictures, along with any information pertaining to the boar, including a change in AI status, health status and genetic information will remain on the website for the lifetime of the RWHA. This allows the membership access to the information on these boars for future research.
6. Each piglet that is registered under the AI program will be given a registration number with the designation of AI. Example: #1234-AI. These designations will be permanent. This will allow members who wish to avoid AI genetics the ability to do so.
7. All piglets registered via the AI program will submit an official AI certification form on the collection company's letter-head and must state a contact number for the company. The certificate must be signed by the technician that performed the AI service and must be submitted along with the registration application.
8. In order to avoid some of the problems that other registries have had with the over-use of a small number of superb sires, the Red Wattle Hog Association will limit the maximum number of registered piglets that one boar can sire via AI to 30. In 3 years if the number of RWHA members using the AI program is less than 8%, the number of piglets can be adjusted to a greater number. The piglets that do not enter into the registry will not be counted toward the 30 piglet maximum.
9. Once a boar is approved for the AI program, the semen collector will be given a certificate of approval from the RWHA along with 30 registration numbers that are designated for that boar. These numbers will be distributed by the collector. It is our recommendation that the collector

offers two numbers along with the certification of service to the sow's owner. This would encourage people to register only the very best of each litter and they allow the collector to use the boar for a longer period of time. No boar will be given more than 30 registration numbers for offspring. No exceptions.

10. Any boar that is used in the AI program and has reached his maximum of 30 registered offspring can be used in live cover and continue to have his piglets registered. Piglets born to live cover tend to stay in a more localized area and they generally do not travel across country. This means that if any problems are found in the future, the majority of offspring affected will be in a more centralized area and not across the country.
11. Any piglet that is kept by the collector as a replacement boar for the AI program can be registered without that piglet being counted toward the 30 piglet limit. This replacement must be used in the AI program. There will be only one replacement boar registered per AI approved boar. The collector may register a second boar only if the new replacement takes the place of a currently registered boar of the same direct line and the boar being replaced is taken out of the AI offering.
12. There can be no more than two boars of the same direct line (one generation) are used by one collector at any given time.
13. Any member found to be using AI and registering piglets as the product of live cover will be banned from the RWHA for a period of two years on their first offense. Any future offense for the same infraction will result in permanent ban from the RWHA.
14. Any semen collection agency that is found to be non-compliant to the rules set forth by the RWHA will be removed from the approved semen source list on the website and any un-used registration numbers issued to the company/agency will be considered void. That company will be banned from registrations for a period of 3 years.

From: dpsponen@vt.edu<mailto:dpsponen@vt.edu>

This is actually very, very good! I cannot think of anything to add. The wording is good, and the thinking behind the rules is very good and very well explained. This is an excellent first step, and sets the stage for getting experience with this in a manner that is safe for the breed.

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> Good work!

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> Phil
