

2010 Suggested Breeding Protocol for PERPETUAL TRADITION

The below information is provided intended to be a resource for mare owners and is not mandatory for breeding to PERPETUAL TRADITION.

Please review this information with your Veterinarian and/or Reproduction Technician.

Early Cycling Mares –

Our mares, that are to be bred early in the breeding season, are placed on a lighting and conditioning program. Lights are situated so that you can comfortably read a newspaper in all corners of the mare's stall. Our early cycling mares are kept in 12 x 12 stalls with two 200-watt bulbs in each stall and the lights come on at 5:00 am and go off at 10:00pm every day with the use of light timers. Mares are turned out during nice days when the weather is good and there is a significant amount of sunlight. During inclement weather mares may be kept inside. We suggest that in northern climates - Northern States and Canada – keeping mares in heavy winter blankets and hoods is an important part of the cycling process. Mares are kept under this lighting system for a minimum of 75 days prior to checking for proper cycling.

Pregnant mares that are to be re-bred early in the year after foaling are also kept under this system to ensure proper cycling after foaling. Once maiden or open mares have been under lights for a minimum of 75 days a blood sample measuring progesterone may be taken. A progesterone blood level of at least 4 ng/ml is best before breeding. We find this useful to ensure that a mare is out of transition and has in fact had at least one ovulation.

Mares are kept on this lighting program until they are checked safe in foal at 30 days.

Open/Barren Broodmares –

Our open/barren mares are given a complete reproductive exam at the end of the previous years breeding season to help assist breeding soundness evaluation in advance of breeding season. Any procedures that need to be done are therefore completed prior to the new breeding season.

Once it is determined that these mares are properly cycling a uterine culture is obtained. Occasionally, at the beginning of the year older mares or problem breeders may have a uterine biopsy evaluated. Breeding is then done as recommended by our Veterinarian.

Using Hormonal Manipulation -

Regumate may be used to manipulate the timing of the cycle in cycling mares.

Lutalyse (or other prostaglandin) may be used to short cycle mares which have already had at least one ovulation.

Ovuplant or HCG may be used to promote ovulation in cycling mares with a follicle that is very close to ovulating. Since Ovuplant may delay a return to cycling if the mare does not conceive, on our farm, we have our veterinarians remove the Ovuplant implant once ovulation has occurred.

Any hormonal manipulation should be done only with the advice and at direction of your veterinarian.

Shipping Cooled Semen -

The Stallion Breeding Manager should be given an estimated breeding date when you book your mare. Please contact us at the beginning of the heat cycle in which you plan to breed your mare. We need as much advance notice as you can give us to help plan our collection & shipping schedule.

Please make every effort to contact the Stallion Breeding Manager before 5:00 pm PST the evening PRIOR to a shipment being sent.

Every effort should be made to have shipments during weekdays from Monday to Friday, as FedEx courier services provide minimal service on weekends.

We pride ourselves in shipping as many cells as possible and are unable to 'hold back' breeding doses. We want to get your mare pregnant as quickly as possible therefore it is important for you to instruct your veterinarian to be in contact as noted and work within the schedule as best you can. Please don't hesitate to contact us often during a heat cycle to help us be informed of your mare's progress.

Receiving Cooled Semen -

Please Do Not Open the Shipping Container Until Your Veterinarian is Present and Ready to Inseminate Your Mare.

Once the shipping container is opened please review the enclosed documents to ensure that you have the correct semen for the your mare. Review these documents carefully! We ask that if the shipment is not already packed in syringes please use REPRODUCTIVE SYRINGES - ALL plastic syringes - as the rubber ends on other syringes can act as a spermicidal.

We are pleased to guarantee you a minimum of 1 billion progressively motile cells with each shipment we send you. PERPETUAL TRADITION, semen will be extended in Inra 96 extender. A Cooled Shipped Semen Report will accompany each shipment. It is recommended that the entire shipment be inseminated into your mare when you receive it. A small sample of the shipment should be examined by your veterinarian to determine its status at the time of insemination. Please make sure the slide you use and the semen sample is adequately warmed prior to determining the evaluation of the shipment.

Please ensure that the Stallion Breeding Manager is notified when you receive your shipment. To help us ensure our high quality control standards we ask that your veterinarian provide us with an evaluation of the shipment when the Stallion Breeding Manager is called to confirm the shipments arrival.

Please ensure that the mare is ultra-sounded or palpated the next day to determine that ovulation has occurred. If Ovuplant has been used, and the mare has ovulated, we suggest that it be removed at this time. If the mare has not ovulated, please notify the Stallion Breeding Manager immediately. Your veterinarian will need to decide if an additional shipment is needed.

We ask that you have your mare ultra-sounded to confirm conception between 14 and 16 days post insemination. Please advise the Stallion Breeding Manager immediately confirming your veterinarian's findings. Arrangements will need to be made for mares that are not confirmed in foal for additional shipments and or procedures to be done.

Once our farm mares are confirmed in foal they continue under the lighting program and ultrasounds are performed to check pregnancy at 45 days, 60 days and 90 days, after which they are turned out into the broodmare pastures.

We highly suggest, especially for early-bred mares, that the lighting program not change until your mare is confirmed in foal at 60 days. Mares bred later in the year can be maintained as normal.

All farm mares are checked for pregnancy again in the fall and normal routine health care procedures are completed prior to the winter season. Any mares not in foal should be reported to the Stallion Breeding Manager immediately.

Our Vaccination Schedule -

Tetanus, Eastern and Western Equine Encephalomyelitis booster once yearly. Pregnant mares boosted 1 month prior to foaling

Prodigy or Pnaumabort-K at 5,7,and 9 months gestation for prevention of Rhino abortions.

West Nile boosters given to pregnant mares one month prior to foaling.

Flu Avert for influenza prevention every 6 months.

Our Deworming schedule -

Deworm all mares every 2 –3 months depending on product used.

Other Maintenance -

Dental examinations are done yearly and necessary corrections done.

Foot care should be provided every 6-8 weeks as required.

Additional Information –

www.equine-reproduction.com

www.equine-reproduction.com/articles/mare.htm

www.selectbreeders.com

We are pleased to help you in any way possible – at any time, feel free to ask any questions you might have. We understand that for many people, early season breeding or artificial insemination may be a learning experience and are happy to work with you to ensure a successful breeding season for everyone!

Please be sure to contact the Stallion Breeding Manager when your mare foals. Providing all contractual obligations are completed a signed Breeders Certificate will be mailed to you immediately!

Tracy Schell, Stallion Breeding Manager
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