

AI technique – Part 3:

Rectal palpation and localisation of the cervix

by Joel Nkuna, AI technician: Taurus

In the previous two editions of *Ubisi Mail*, Joel Nkuna told us about preparing for the insemination process. Now we will focus more on locating the cervix while inseminating the cow.

- Apply lubricant to the back of the gloved hand and the opening of the rectum, so that the hand can be inserted easily.
- Do not use soaps and detergents or lubricants containing disinfectants. They irritate a cow's rectum and are very harmful to sperm.
- First put one finger into the rectum, gently stretching it forward. Then put in the other fingers, held together.
- Hold the fingers in a cone-shape and gently push your arm forward into the rectum, while holding onto the tail with the other hand.
- Once your hand is inserted wrist-deep into the rectum, apply downward pressure on the reproductive organs and move the hand from side to side along the pelvic rim where the abdominal cavity starts. By making use of this technique the cervix can easily be located.
- During the sweeping movement, press the fingers down towards the floor of the pelvis so that they feel where the cervix is. The cervix is normally found near the midline of the pelvic floor, just forward to the pelvic edge.
- If the cervix has not been located during the initial palpation, repeat the procedure first backward and forward to the edge of the pelvis.
- Take note that the cervixes of different cows may feel different from each other, so you have to practice until you get right.

For more information about AI technique, or for a catalogue of the latest bulls Taurus has available, phone Joel Nkuna at 012 667 1122 or 082 807 1557. **UM**

