

FAQ's

Boviteq – Bishop Reproductive Services



Scheduling Questions and Answers

- 1. How far postpartum do you recommend donors be enrolled?** We recommend first collecting donors around 60 days postpartum or 60 days following stressors such as calving, major health events, heat stress, etc. The oocyte development cycle takes about 60 days, so waiting 60 days after these events gives us our best chance at collecting healthy oocytes which will turn into healthy embryos and healthy pregnancies.
- 2. What age of donors can we enroll in IVF?** Donors as young as 7 months can be collected for IVF. We commonly begin working with heifers aged 10.5-11 months and can make recommendations for breeding donors during or following IVF protocols if requested.
- 3. How early and how far into pregnancy can you collect a donor?** Most early pregnancy loss occurs prior to 40 days, so this is typically considered a “safe” pregnancy. We commonly collect donors prior to pregnancy diagnosis and have seen minimal risk, as we treat any “exposed” female as pregnant and are protective of the CL which would be responsible for maintaining the pregnancy. We can collect donors up to 90 days pregnant, and sometimes out to 120 days depending on when the pregnancy drops over the edge of the pelvis. We need to be able to reach and manipulate the ovaries to safely aspirate follicles from all sides of the ovary.
- 4. What is the main difference when stimulating donors with FSH compared to non-stim?** The Boviteq IVF media has been developed to aid in fertilization and culture of mature oocytes. Stimulation with FSH every 12 hours ensures that a uniform population of follicles will grow and be ready for fertilization at the lab. We only collect follicles >5 mm, so while oocyte numbers that we send may be lower than in a non-stimulated system, our morula development rate will be higher because these oocytes are collected when they are ready for fertilization.
- 5. Why do we need to give shots every 12 hours?** The half-life of FSH is 12 hours, so anytime that follicles are without FSH for more than 12 hours, they are at risk of becoming atretic (or dying). After GnRH, the cow releases endogenous FSH for about 36 hours, reducing the need for FSH at the beginning of a follicular wave. The time from our last FSH injection to collection is the “coast” period, at which maturation of the oocytes occurs. We recommend giving shots at 12 hour intervals between 7-9am and pm to help maintain consistency between sites and collection schedules.

- 6. Can we schedule fresh transfers?** This will depend on the schedule and availability of the Bishop Repro team. It is not likely that we will be able to schedule fresh transfers for our Kansas satellite locations, but we do frequently have fresh embryos sent back to our Missouri facility for small groups of donors to haul in.

Pricing Questions And Answers

- 1. How is pricing at Boviteq different?** Boviteq bills the client directly for all lab services. The vet team or donor housing facility will bill clients separately for OPU collection/donor housing.
- 2. What is a cost comparison at Boviteq vs competitors?** Collections are charged by the cycle, or mating, rather than by embryo produced. Both Boviteq and the vet are charging the client for the cost of embryo production, so while up-front costs are higher, in general, the total collection cost on cows with average embryo production will be lower with Boviteq compared to a competitor's lab.

Bull Selection Questions and Answers

- 1. What is reverse sort and how do we schedule reverse sort?** Reverse sort is a technology that can take a frozen straw of conventional semen and sort for male or female sperm. It is scheduled on a first-come, first served basis. In order to be added to the reverse sort schedule (which has a capacity that will be met during the busy spring season), you must submit the donor ID and registration number, and collection date, as well as the bull name, cane code, and request for reverse sort male or female. We will also require a conventional or sexed semen backup for every reverse sort mating.
- 2. What determines how well a bull works in IVF?** There are many factors that influence a bull's performance in IVF. Just because a bull works well for AI or conventional collections does not mean that he will work well in IVF. At Boviteq, every straw of every bull is prepped individually for fertilization depending on his past results, age at collection, and other factors. Every semen collection date can perform differently and is closely tracked. Bull conditions are optimized after about 3 cycles using a specific lot collection. Individual bull history at Boviteq can be researched and discussed with our Client Success Manager. If we have scheduled use of a bull that has a history of below average results, we will be sure to communicate this with you to help manage expectations for that IVF cycle.

Questions and Answers regarding your IVF Results

- 1. When do we get IVF results?** A morula report will be provided directly to the CSM on the 7th day following collection in order to plan for shipping for fresh transfers.

This information includes the number of good and poor quality morula that are developing, as well as predictions for how many embryos will be viable for transfer and freezable on day 8. On day 8, you will be able to access your donor's freeze data through the Boviteq App as soon as her embryos are frozen!

- 2. What additional feedback do we get regarding donor results?** For donors with below average morula development, the veterinary team receives direct feedback from Boviteq regarding oocyte maturation, fertilization results (unfertilized vs polyspermy), and both donor and sire history. We use this information to make adjustments to a donor's schedule for future collections.