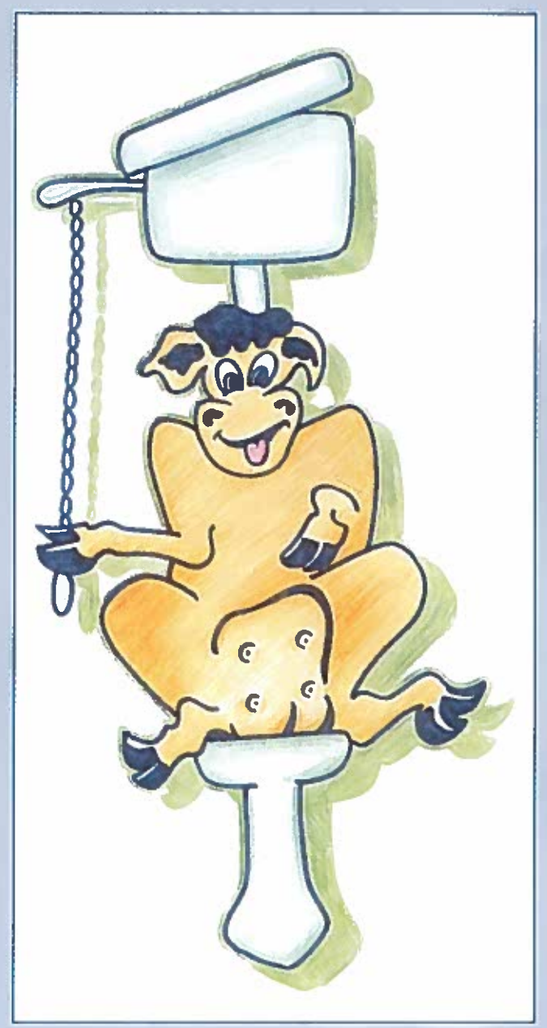
Embryo Transfer is the collection or 'flushing' of embryos from donor animals with the subsequent transfer of the embryos into recipient surrogate mothers.



EMBRYO TRANSFER:–

- **Benefits all herdowners**
  Beef and dairy, pedigree and commercial
- **Maximises on breeding**
  Ensures continuity of the best bloodlines in the breed
- **Gives access to superior genetics**
  Enables importation of embryos and avoids the cost of movement of live animals
- **Accelerates genetic gain**
  By producing up to 20 progeny per year from each of your best cows
- **Increases capital return**
  By making available animals of genetic merit for sale
- **Can be of benefit to a problem breeder**
  An outstanding cow with poor breeding history may yield embryos when flushed.

SUPEROVULATION

Normally the ovaries of a cow produce only one egg per cycle. This means that a single pregnancy is the normal condition.

A superovulatory drug can be given to increase the number of eggs to emerge from the surface of the ovary and be released. The eggs are fertilised using artificial insemination (or natural service). Seven days after the heat and insemination, the embryos will be collected.

THE DONOR COW

The donor cow needs to be at least six weeks calved, and cycling regularly before the start of the programme. Maiden heifers should be at least 13 months old.

Your veterinary surgeon should examine all donors to confirm normality. They should be clean, cycling normally and in good body condition but not too fat.

Choose a bull with good fertility. We suggest a minimum of three straws per flush.

Cover Shot: Glasson Storm Gail and ET daughters, owned by P Haffey, Lurgan.

A TYPICAL PROGRAMME FOR SUPEROVULATION AND FLUSHING

Day 0	Reference Heat
Day 10	Superovulatory drugs
Day 11	Superovulatory drugs
Day 12	Superovulatory drugs and prostaglandin
Day 13	Superovulatory drugs
Day 14	Heat and A. I.
Day 21	Flush / Transfer / Freeze

RECIPIENTS

Embryos are collected from the donor seven days after mating and need to be transferred to recipients at a similar stage of their reproductive cycle. This can be achieved by synchronisation using appropriate drugs.

Maiden heifers are preferable as recipients since they tend to have higher pregnancy rates than cows. Animals which have been cycling regularly are the best recipients, so accurate heat detection is essential. We recommend that your veterinary surgeon should examine recipients to check their normality.

Nutrition of recipients is also extremely important. Put them on a rising plane of nutrition a few weeks before and up to six weeks after transfer. Changes in diet and environment should be avoided for approximately one month prior to transfer of the embryo and until the pregnancy is well established.

Day 7 Embryos

Omorga Jemima ET calves

EMBRYO TRANSFER CHARGES

Farm Visit	£80.00
	£40.00 if 5 or more transfers carried out in one day
Superovulation and Flushing (including drugs to donor)	£120.00 for 1 animal
	£100.00 for 2nd & subsequent flushes on same day
TRANSFERS – PER EMBRYO	
Fresh Embryo	£50.00
Grade 3 Transfers	F. O. C.
Frozen Transfers	£50.00
	£40.00 Quick Thaw
Freezing plus storage	£15.00 per Embryo

THE TRANSFER

Embryos are collected 7 days after insemination using a non-surgical procedure. All embryos recovered are sorted into grades depending on their quality. Once graded the embryos can be transferred fresh into a batch of synchronised recipients or frozen in liquid nitrogen.

SINGLE EGG FLUSH

This involves the collection of a single embryo from the donor usually following a natural heat. This may be used to obtain an embryo from a cow that does not respond well to superovulation.

Our Embryo Transfer Service is offered either 'on farm' or 'on centre'.