



Media Release

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TRANS OVA GENETICS OPENS IVF CENTERS IN WISCONSIN

Sioux Center, Iowa – Trans Ova Genetics has opened two new Satellite Centers in the state of Wisconsin. They are located in Newton, Wis., at Siemers Holsteins, and in Rudolph, Wis., at Duckett Holsteins. Breeders can now bring their donors to either location for in vitro fertilization (IVF) services. Aspirations are conducted biweekly at both of the new Satellite Centers.

Siemers Holsteins is home to 2,300 milking cows as well as a nucleus of special donor cows that have distinguished pedigrees and elite show success. Two and a half years ago, an older free-stall barn circa 1971 was remodeled to house up to 20 lactating cows and a dozen dry donors. This new facility also now serves as one of the new IVF Satellite Centers where visiting donors are aspirated. Newton is 130 miles northeast of Madison and 75 miles north of Milwaukee.

“IVF is an impressive technology that has opened doors of new opportunity for our donors,” says Dan Siemers. “We are pleased to offer IVF capabilities right here on our farm, not only for our own donors, but for other Wisconsin breeders.”

Duckett Holsteins, owned by Mike and Julie Duckett, houses elite type and pedigreed cattle, many with impressive show credentials. This Satellite Center of Trans Ova Genetics offers IVF services as well as a recipient herd, ideal for breeders who have more donors than available recipients. Rudolph is about 100 miles east of Eau Claire and 40 miles south of Wausau.

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“IVF has been a great technology for our donors. Being able to collect pregnant donors allows us to have our cows bred back for the next show season and still capitalize on marketing opportunities,” says Mike Duckett. “We’re excited to be able to offer these services – together with Trans Ova Genetics – to other breeders in the area. Having a satellite center in Wisconsin makes IVF more convenient for the farmers and easy on the cows. Breeders also have access to our recipient herd for transfer of the IVF embryos.”

At these new local centers, the IVF process starts with Trans Ova Genetics’ technicians aspirating donors to collect oocytes (eggs). The oocytes then are shipped overnight to Trans Ova Genetics’ headquarters in Sioux Center, Iowa, where they can be combined with conventional or reverse-sort sexed semen specified by the breeder’s choice. The embryos then mature in an incubator for seven days before being taken out of culture and graded for quality. Embryos are then either transferred into recipients at Trans Ova Genetics, or in some situations, may be shipped back to Wisconsin where they can be transferred into synchronized recipients by a trained practitioner.

IVF can be implemented successfully on milking or dry donors, pregnant donors (during a certain window of time), and virgin heifers. Recipients must have been synchronized to the donor’s aspiration, and the IVF embryos must be transferred the day they arrive back to the Satellite Center.

“There has been high demand for IVF services in dairy donors. However, for many breeders, it’s not feasible to bring donors, especially milking cows, to our headquarters in northwestern Iowa,” says Jared Knock, director of marketing for Trans Ova Genetics. “We are thrilled to partner with two reputable breeders in Wisconsin to offer IVF services locally in America’s Dairyland.”

Trans Ova Genetics has offered cattle IVF services since 1994. In 2006, the company began combining IVF technology with reverse-sort semen capabilities at its headquarters in Sioux Center, Iowa.

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To schedule an appointment for IVF at either of the two new Wisconsin Satellite Centers, cattle owners should call Scott Metzger, area sales manager for Trans Ova Genetics, at 712-470-4059.

Founded in 1980, Trans Ova Genetics offers advanced reproductive technologies to help breeders multiply the success of their elite cattle. These technologies include embryo transfer, in vitro fertilization, sex-sorted semen, genetic preservation and cloning. Trans Ova Genetics also offers several recipient options, including health-certified recipients, Multiplier Herd Program and a Live Calf Program. Headquartered in Sioux Center, Iowa, Trans Ova Genetics has regional centers in Missouri and Texas, as well as several satellite stations throughout the United States.

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