



SUCCESS DEPENDS ON THE WELL-BEING OF OUR BULLS

Commitment to animal care, biosecurity, disease testing and traceability helps Semex raise the bar on animal health.

The health and welfare of our bulls is a top priority for Semex and is every employee's shared responsibility.

"Animal health and welfare and disease monitoring is not only important for the animal, but it's vital for the quality of our semen, our business, Canada's disease status and the confidence of our global trading partners," says Susan Dunk, Semex's Director of Customer Service and Regulatory Affairs.

Young bulls typically enter Semex's bull roster at four to six months of age. "The farmers we collaborate with understand the importance of bull health," says Dunk who notes it's critical to keep bulls healthy before they enter the company's Brockville, Ontario, isolation facility.

Notice of Annual General Meeting of Members of EastGen Incorporated

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Members of EastGen will be held at the Holiday Inn Guelph Hotel & Conference Centre, Guelph, ON with a Link Meeting for Eastern Ontario members at the Kemptville Campus Education & Community Center, WB George Centre, Conference Room 1, Kemptville, ON, on the 31st day of March, 2020 at the hour of 10:00 a.m. in the forenoon to:

- a) Receive the financial statements of EastGen for the period ending December 31, 2019;*
- b) Appoint auditors and authorize the directors to fix the remuneration of the auditors;*
- c) Transact such further and other business as may properly be brought before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.*

By order of the Board of Directors,
Brian O'Connor, Secretary

Tuesday, March 31, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
Registration: 9:30 a.m.
Meeting 10:00 a.m. SHARP

It's here where Semex, under the guidance of the Isolation Specialist Veterinarian, follows stringent health protocols set out by the Canadian A.I. Program to protect animal health.

Under the Canadian A.I. Program, managed by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), bulls go through a series of tests aimed at preventing disease transmission via bovine semen. This begins on-farm, 60 days prior to entering the Semex facility, bulls are tested for nine diseases, including: Tuberculosis, Brucellosis, Leptospirosis, Bluetongue, Johne's, Leucosis, IBR, BVD and EHD2. All tests are completed by CFIA laboratories.

Upon entering the Brockville facility, the animals are retested for the diseases as well as Campylobacter and Trichomoniasis – bringing the total number of diseases tested to 11. Bulls failing health tests cannot access Semex semen production centres. This screening process gives Semex bulls the highest health status among animal populations in Canada.

EXCEEDING CANADIAN AND GLOBAL STANDARDS

Monitoring for health and disease doesn't stop there. All 11 diseases are included in annual testing, with seven being tested again semi-annually, and Bluetongue and EHD2 every 30 days. Dunk adds that some countries require special testing for Q Fever.

"As you can see, we take disease very seriously. Our goal is to exceed Canadian and industry standards," says Dunk. She notes that bulls entering the A.I. centres from Progenesis, Semex's internal product development program, are subject to the same testing procedures.

Maintaining bull health relies on much more than just testing for disease. On-going commitments to animal care, biosecurity and traceability play an important role. "Preventing diseases from entering our semen production centres is a major component of our biosecurity plan," Dunk says.

For example, when bulls are picked up on-farm from genetic suppliers, Semex hires a dedicated trucking firm that sanitizes trucks before each trip. Biosecurity protocols are followed to ensure disease does not enter the A.I. centre. The protocols also encompass the bull management team, including veterinarians who follow strict access and sanitation rules.

KEEPING BULLS HEALTHY AND COMFORTABLE

Dunk emphasizes the importance of how the Brockville facility is constructed to support and enhance health management. The A.I. centre isolation facility consists of two barns, each containing 12 independent pods.

"Every pod has its own ventilation system and washing facility. All the equipment in each pod



stays there, including feed wagons,” explains Dunk. This level of biosecurity gives Semex the ability to isolate any animal within a small group without compromising the health status of the animals at the centre.

Semex often gets questions from producers and government regulators regarding animal welfare and how bulls are managed within the facility.

“It’s important for people to understand that our bulls get a high level of care. Dedicated specialized staff, overseen by centre and corporate veterinarians, observe our bulls daily not only to look for any sign of suspicious disease but also to look for any possible improvement of the comfort of our bulls,” she says. For example, some bulls will frequently get ‘sauna like’ sessions under heating lamps to relax their back muscles. “It’s good for the animal to keep them healthy and comfortable.”

When bulls are out of their pens, they are washed, brushed and clipped. Feed rations and feeding regimens are also an important health consideration, that is monitored by the Semex Corporate Veterinarian and the centre veterinarian team.

Traceability is the final piece that completes the bull health puzzle. Using RFID technology, Semex is able to trace all aspects of disease management and animal health. “It really does allow us to show customers that our processes meet and exceed global requirements,” says Dunk.

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PEI: 902-626-9787

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type (+12 Conformation), great udders (+12 Overall), and double digit Dairy Strength (+10) from healthy daughters that will stand the test of time (107 HL).

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Calcium Bolus (code#867) **\$10/ea**

Bolus Applicator (code#869) **\$23/ea**

2020 ZONE MEETINGS

NEW BRUNSWICK - SUSSEX - ZONE 1

February 20, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker - Dr. Steven Larmer, Semex

Location: All Seasons Inn & Restaurant,
1015 Main St, Sussex, NB

PEI - HUNTER RIVER - ZONE 1

February 21, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker - Dr. Steven Larmer, Semex

Location: Hunter River Community Centre,
19818 Route #2, Hunter River, PEI

NORTHERN ONTARIO - NEW LISKEARD ZONE 7

February 25, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

Location: Gilli's Restaurant., 997490

Highway 11 N, New Liskeard

For the most current information
on the 2020 zone meeting dates
please visit www.eastgen.ca and click
on events.

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Please return this with your payment envelope or email the information to: christa.ormiston@eastgen.ca