

*ABS Sexation, the ABS Sorted Semen product offering, began production in September 2006 at the ABS DeForest laboratories. Since its introduction into the dairy and beef industries, demand has been unprecedented. A significant factor in the success of ABS Sexation is the quality control measures that each collection must undergo before being released for distribution. The procedures and protocols for ABS Sexation product are very stringent and are outlined below.*

### Setting the Standard for Quality Control

#### Pre Sort Criteria

Before a sire's collection qualifies for sorting on the Flow Cytometer sorting machines, it must undergo the following evaluations:

- **Motility:** Measuring the motility or progressive movement of sperm in the ejaculate.
- **Morphology:** Evaluating the sperm for abnormalities. Some abnormalities influence fertility. Particular abnormalities can hinder proper sorting function.
- **Percent dead sperm:** Maximum threshold of dead sperm accepted in a collection.
- **Concentration:** Amount of sperm per milliliter of collection sample.

If the collection does not pass these evaluations, it is eliminated for sorting eligibility. If it does pass these evaluations, it will be sorted and further processed, straws filled and sealed and then frozen.

#### Post Sort/Post Freeze Criteria

Each batch of semen undergoes evaluation for five post sort/post freeze measures. Once again, if the collection fails any one of these five tests, the entire batch is discarded.

- **Post thaw motility at zero hour:** measures sperm motility immediately after thaw.
- **Post thaw motility after three hours of incubation:** measures sperm motility after three hours of incubation.
- **Percent intact acrosomes at zero and after three hour incubation:** evaluates the part of the sperm that must be activated for proper fertilization.
- **Purity:** percent of collection that is female or male (x or y bearing sperm) depending on the preference of the sort.
- **Bacteriology at 24 hours:** culture that identifies bacteria in the collection.

### Reaping the Benefits of High Standards

Many producers are seeing great results from the use of ABS Sexation, and these high quality control standards contribute greatly to these successes. To learn more about ABS Sexation, contact a local ABS Representative. ■

