



Embryo Transfer: Is In-Center or On-Farm Best for You?



Embryo transfer is an advanced reproductive technology and a progressive tool that can help you produce more offspring from elite cows. Well-established ET providers, like Trans Ova Genetics, offer the option of performing services in-center or on-farm. Consider the following when deciding which is best for you, your donors and your breeding goals:

In-Center ET

- You can save time, and avoid the hassle associated with administering shots at home.
- The Trans Ova Genetics team works with donors and recipients every day, offering years of experience to perfect the best course of action for superovulation and synchronization.
- Procedures, such as dominant follicle removal (DFR), may increase the number of your donor's viable embryos and can be performed in-center.
- Cattle requiring special procedures usually perform better with in-center programs.
- Semen quality can be verified in-center prior to insemination.
- The center's facilities should be equipped for low-stress cattle handling and offer temperature-controlled laboratory environments free of dust and sunlight.



- Trans Ova Genetics offers access to health-certified recipients for fresh transfers of embryos.
- In-center allows for a maximum flush-to-freeze efficiency, thus increasing the odds of freezing embryos without loss of viability.
- Embryos recovered from donors flushed in-center at Trans Ova Genetics can be qualified for export – even to many countries with the most strict import protocol requirements.



Questions to ask an ET provider:

Experienced professional teams should provide breeders with answers to necessary questions, such as:

- How do you ensure my donor remains adequately conditioned?
- How many in-center donors do you house together per pen?
- For which diseases are your incoming donors tested?
- Are donors checked before being administered follicle stimulating hormone (FSH) injections?

On-Farm ET

- Donor cattle are kept in their own environment during the embryo transfer procedure.
- You should cleanse the lab at least one day prior to the arrival of the Trans Ova Genetics team to ensure no toxic residues remain from cleaning agents.
- Make sure your facilities are updated before starting an on-farm ET program if they do not already include:
 - Heavy-duty squeeze chute (protected from the sun)
 - Enclosed room for lab area that is free of dust and sunlight and is temperature controlled
 - Table or counter area
 - Electricity supply both by the chute and in the lab area
- You should be comfortable with following the prescribed protocols for administering multiple injections, inserting CIDRs into donors and recipients for synchronization, observing cattle for estrus, managing nutrition, and minimizing stress of both donors and recipients.
- You have access to your own recipients if they have been visually heat detected for fresh transfer of embryos.



Questions to consider:

- Do I have the time to devote to visual heat detection and injections if I choose an on-farm program?
- Am I ready to set up and manage a schedule with my own donors and recipients?
- Do I have enough recipients?
- What are the cost differences?

Weighing these factors of in-center and on-farm ET can help you determine the right program for your herd reproduction goals. Communicating often with your ET provider and discussing concerns or questions that may arise also will help you decide on the right location to implement an ET program and reap the benefits this technology offers.

For more information about implementing an ET program, please visit www.transova.com or call Trans Ova Genetics at 1-800-999-3586

In-Center vs. On-Farm ET Programs

	In-Center	On-Farm
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donors monitored by skilled professionals • Procedures to maximize production available • Less labor intensive for the breeder • Semen verified before insemination • Donors kept in facilities with low-stress handling • Access to ET center recipients for fresh transfers • Embryos may be qualified for export to other countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to breeder's own recipients for fresh embryo transfer • Transportation of cattle not required • Donor resides with current herd in familiar surroundings • No entrance fees • Boarding costs integrated in on-farm operating expense
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation of donors to and from center facilities • Donor exposed to other cattle (from various places) • Combination of entrance and boarding fees may be more than average on-farm costs • Donor management practices may differ from breeder's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities must be up-to-date and clean, which may require additional investment for a breeder • Labor and time intensive for breeder and herdsmen • Schedule requirements for administering correct drugs and visual heat checking • May not have access to certain technologies – such as semen verification - that can lead to improved results



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