

Artificial Insemination

Perdido River Farms gets training in reproduction techniques using AI

As a cow-calf operation, Perdido River Farms (PRF) maintains a steady herd of cattle. One of the fundamental factors in sustaining a good herd is reproduction. Perdido River Farms prides itself on producing high-quality cattle, and recently the farm hosted a training class on artificial insemination (AI) of cows, demonstrated by Select Sires Inc., a frozen semen company that aids farmers in cattle reproduction. The company offers a customized approach to reproductive management.

There are benefits to artificially inseminating a cow instead of

breeding her traditionally. First, it allows farmers to use more diverse genetics than might be available onsite or in the geographical region, and second, it can improve individual traits in the offspring.

“A farmer in Atmore can use the same bull as a farmer in Wisconsin or Montana,” said Len Holliman with Select Sires Inc. “You don’t have to have the bull in the same physical proximity in order to breed, which saves the individual farmer on expenses, such as housing, feeding, etc., while at the same time improving the quality of the calf produced.”

The three-day training process involves education on the cow system and her anatomy and education on handling/use procedures for the frozen product, as well as hands-on training.

“We’re at Perdido River Farms to train producers to breed their cows artificially using AI techniques,” Holliman said. The PRF staff went through the training course along with farmers from other companies.

Another benefit for PRF is AI enables the farm to produce more high-quality show animals for Tribal 4-H and FFA students to take to competitions.

