

## Explanation of semen evaluation scores.

Concentration.

An estimate of the amount of sperm cells per ml of semen.

e.g. 1.4 ( $1.4 \times 10^9$ ) = 1400,000,000 sperm cells/ml

Or 3.0 ( $3.0 \times 10^8$ ) = 300,000,000 sperm cells/ml

1.4 = Very concentrated

3.0 = borderline to poor concentration.

Motility\_– Comprises two stages

1. Speed of sperm cells. Scored from 1 to 6
2. % of sperm travelling progressively forward at that speed.

So 6 . 100 Excellent

5 . 80 Very good

4 . 60 Borderline

3 . 30 Poor.

A morphology slide is performed also to establish if there is any abnormal sperm present in the ejaculate.

If a sample is 6.100 it is unlikely there will be any abnormalities.

If a sample is 4.60 or below there could be abnormalities affecting the sample (sheet attached showing diagrams & descriptions of abnormalities).

If sperm are dead but normal the bull usually has not ejaculated recently; however if the sperm are abnormal there has probably been some trauma to the testicles or an abnormality in the prostate or seminal vesicles.

On the collection sheets percentages and type of abnormalities are indicated next to the bulls ID.

If an ejaculate is scored 4.6 or less further ejaculates are taken to establish if there is any improvement.

If no improvement over 3 ejaculates it is advisable to test again in around 6 weeks.

