**History of Artificial Insemination**

Artificial insemination is the technique in which semen with living sperm is collected from the male and introduced into female reproductive tract at proper time with the help of instruments. This has been found to result in a normal offspring. In this process, the female is inseminated by placing a portion of this semen(either collected or in diluted form) into the cervix or uterus by mechanical methods at the proper time and under most hygienic conditions.

In animals, it is usually done to improve the breed or to save a breed from extinction.

In the following , there are some of the remarkable events of AI technique.

* in 1677 that Leeuwenhoek saw spermatozoa through the newly discovered microscope.
* In the 1780, Lazarro Spallanzani (Italian physiologist) in Italy found that the bitch can be impregnated artificially with the help of cellular portion of semen. He also observed that the spermatozoa could be stored in an inactivated form by cooling and when they are needed they can be reactivated later.
* About 1900, Professor Ivanov was hired by the Russian throne to develop AI for horses. He was an ambitious man and by 1933 he had developed methods for collecting semen and inseminating horses, cattle, sheep and swine. Most of these early inseminations were with sheep and horses. Hence [artificial insemination in cattle](http://www.buzzle.com/articles/artificial-insemination-in-cattle.html) was started by this era.
* Sorenson was the first to establish AI cooperative in the year 1933 in Denmark. Then E.J. Perry with the help of Larson, established the first AI cooperative in the United States in 1937 and by the year 1939 this number was raised to seven.
* Bureau of Animal Industry, in 1940 registered the Santa Gertrudis cow which was a new breed resulted from Artificial Insemination.
* In 1949, new and improved method was developed to freeze and store sperm and then thaw it safely. Dr. Polge and co-workers(in England) discovered that glycerol in the extender media would protect fowl and bull spermatozoa from damage during freezing. Early freezing and storage was accomplished with dry ice and alcohol at a temperature of -79º C. Later, liquid nitrogen was used as a coolant because its -196º C temperature provided longer and safer storage conditions.
* In 1950, scientist of Cornell university discovered that antibiotic can also be added in the sperm solution in AI.
* With the successful usage of the frozen sperm, the rate of sperm donors increased and in 1970s' AI became commercialized and sperm bank industry was developed.
* According to University of Florida IFAS, in 1970, farmers bred more than 7 million dairy cows.

Artificial insemination is not merely a novel method of bringing about impregnation in females. Instead, it is a powerful tool mostly employed for livestock improvement. In artificial insemination the bulls of superior quality can be effectively utilized with the least regard for their location in faraway places. By adoption of artificial insemination, there would be considerable reduction in both genital and non-genital diseases in the farm stock.