Fertility

**Stallion Fertility** Helped by Science

By Tullis Matson ARAgS, MD at Stallion AI Services Ltd and Cryogenetics Ltd

Providing a balanced diet is imperative to breeding stallions, not only for fertility but also for the overall wellbeing of the horses. Breeding stallions differ in their nutritional needs, particularly when you are feeding for fertility. Nutrients such as organic Selenium, L-Carnitine, Nucleotides, Yucca and Antioxidants have been widely researched in isolation for their beneficial properties on stallion fertility. It is with this in mind that a trial supplement was then developed to include all of these active ingredients to meet the specific needs of breeding stallions. Organic Selenium and fruit-derived Vitamin E work in synergy to aid sperm motility and structure and protect the cells from free radical damage.

**Research**

The two-year research study used a sample group of both fertile and sub-fertile stallions which were fed the specifically designed stallion supplement over a six month period, in conjunction with their existing diet. Throughout the six month trial period semen samples were collected and processed for fresh, chilled and frozen artificial insemination (AI).

**Results**

During the study the active ingredients found in the trial supplement demonstrated improvement on sperm motility by up to 20%, improvement on sperm velocity by up to 23% and improvement on overall sperm viability by up to 24%. Throughout product testing, improvements have been seen on both fertile and sub-fertile stallions and proven effective on semen for fresh, chilled and frozen AI.

**Conclusion**

Throughout the study the trial supplement demonstrated a number of beneficial results which aided in improving stallion fertility. The trial supplement helped to increase sperm motility and improved cell membrane integrity thus aiding the sperm in tolerating conditions within the mares uterus, particularly following natural covering, as well as withstanding the processing techniques associated with preparing semen for fresh, chilled and frozen artificial insemination. Stallions that produce semen with both good motility and viability, compared with stallions with lower quality semen have the best chance of successfully getting the mare in foal.

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