



## American Embryo Transfer Association

June 28, 2023

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To whom it may concern,

The American Embryo Transfer Association (AETA) Certification Program has been in existence since 1985 and is the benchmark for AETA members who are exporting embryos. The AETA Certification Program provides critical validation of proper embryo procurement, packaging, and labeling to ensure that high-quality, biosecure embryo products enter the international markets, promoting confidence in USA germplasm and encouraging export market expansion. In doing so, this program provides the USDA with traceability from the end-product back to the embryo transfer production team.

The Certification Program was developed with the foresight to encompass all species if the demand to certify practitioners in a particular species exists. Certified practitioners are primarily working with bovines and utilizing assisted reproductive technologies to produce bovine embryos for export to countries outside of the United States. As the small ruminant industry has grown, the opportunity to export small ruminant embryos to other countries has developed. The USDA approached the AETA about providing certification opportunities for professionals providing small ruminant embryo collection and processing services. It is AETA's desire to require all individuals who export embryos from the USA to be certified by the AETA. The AETA Certification Program is taking the following steps to be able to adequately test and certify practitioners who wish to achieve AETA certification:

- 1) Add two small ruminant practitioners to the Certification Committee, to assist with examinations and inspections of practitioners choosing to become AETA certified.
- 2) Develop and add exam questions for the initial certification exam pertaining to the process of assisted reproductive technologies in small ruminants.
- 3) Continue to include small ruminant presentations and wet labs in the AETA program, to be able to provide necessary continuing education to maintain certification.

Small ruminant practitioners interested in becoming certified should follow the current guidelines for sitting for the AETA exam. Specific information on time and location of an exam can be found by contacting Morgan Montgomery at the American Embryo Transfer Association at [aeta@assoqh.org](mailto:aeta@assoqh.org).

Sincerely,

AETA Board of Directors  
AETA Certification Committee

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