I begin this president's message by sincerely thanking our Canadian friends for hosting our joint CETA-AETA convention in Calgary. We had a record meeting attendance, a record number of exhibitors, and a record banquet attendance. Roger (co-convention chairman) and Cindy Davis and Karen McDermott (CETA secretary-manager) deserve special thanks for their attention to the details that make a convention most enjoyable. I have fond memories of superb Canadian hospitality. It was good to be with old (as in long-term) friends and to also meet new Canadian friends who will join us again at our convention in Tampa next year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the exhibitors and sponsors who contribute so much to make our convention a success. Please review the list of exhibitors and sponsors in this issue and thank them by placing your orders with them. Don't forget when you place your orders to also personally thank them for their generous support of the AETA.

Thanks also to the convention speakers for taking time from their busy schedules to deliver the latest in embryo transfer research. For those of you who were not able to attend the convention, a copy of the proceedings will be made available on the AETA Web site (www.aeta.org). You will need your member access number to access this page. Your number was sent out with your membership renewal notice.

The AETA committee chairpersons are in place for this coming year. They are listed in this issue with their phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Please let me know if you are willing to volunteer to serve on any of these committees. I'll be glad to pass on your name to committee chairpersons. Volunteers are the backbone of this organization.

Tom Rea, next year's convention chairman, is already planning for our convention in Tampa. I'm sure he welcomes any suggestions from the membership for topics or speakers. You can e-mail him at trigeneticswest@aol.com.

By now, each of you should have received the new laminated labeling instruction sheet that has just been completed by the certification committee. I believe there has been an improvement in labeling over the last several years and I hope this sheet will serve to prompt more companies to incorporate proper labeling techniques into their programs.

One of the things that continues to plague us is that we sometimes receive frozen embryos with no paperwork included. The embryos may also be improperly labeled. Most of the time when I receive embryos this way, they have not come directly from the company that did the original packaging; however, numerous times they have been purchased through major breed sales. This almost never happens to me anymore if those embryos have gone through a major Jersey sale. My hat is off to Dr. Joe Lineweaver who, I believe, almost singlehandedly got Jersey Marketing Service to limit the sale of embryos to only those with proper paperwork available at sale time. Do we have any
volunteers to work on the major players involved in other breed sales? Maybe we need to reestablish the Breed Association Liaison Committee.

There was a new committee formed by the Board at our meeting in Calgary. It is the Audit Committee, which will be responsible for overseeing the finances of our organization. I am pleased that Dr. Edwin Robertson has agreed to be the chairman of this committee. He will serve as a long-term chairman, with the two additional members of the committee each year being the two board members elected in the same years as the current president and vice president. This committee will perform audits of our association books in the years when we do not have an independent audit. Independent audits will occur at least every three years.

Most of you know by now that the AETA has a new management company. The Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS) was hired in July to replace GMO. I am pleased that this transfer has gone so smoothly. It is a pleasure to work with Chuck Sapp, Lorena Nicholas, and Jennifer Gavel to accomplish the tasks that need to be done on a day-to-day basis for our organization. To learn more about FASS, see their Web site (www.fass.org) or call the office with your questions (217-398-2217).

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### 2003 Joint AETA – CETA Convention

**Final Numbers**

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<th>AETA</th>
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Additionally, 24 companies participated in the meeting: 23 of those companies exhibited and 9 of those companies were sponsors. A total of 50 company representatives were in attendance during the conference, bringing the total number of individuals at the meeting close to 400.

Thank you to all who attended this year’s meeting! Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2004 Joint AETA-CETA Convention: October 13–16, 2004 in Tampa, FL. Watch the AETA website for updated information on this meeting as it becomes available (www.aeta.org).

![2004 A Closer Look Advertising Rates](image)

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### Publication Schedule and Deadlines

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**NOTICE TO READERS**

Articles published in *A Closer Look* are not peer-reviewed or refereed. All statements, opinions, and conclusions contained in the articles in *A Closer Look* are those of the author(s), and are not necessarily those of the American Embryo Transfer Association unless specifically approved by the AETA Board of Directors.
Randall Hinshaw and Todd Bickett involved in an important(?) discussion.

Roger Davis and Reuben Mapletoft. Is the bank really being robbed?

Some of our members seem to be in trouble at all times!
The Entertainment at Heritage Park.

Dr. and Mrs. Barry England

Dr. Randall Hinshaw and Outgoing board member, Dr. Steve Malin.

Dr. Cheryl Nelson and Dr. Ron Kling—newly elected board members.

Dr. Todd and Alisa Bickett.
FASS specializes in providing a wide array of management services to both small- and medium-sized, agricultural-based, not-for-profit associations. FASS manages 13 other societies ranging in size from 125 members up to 4,000 members. FASS is unique in that it supports common agricultural interests while at the same time streamlining administrative expenses and preserving each society's traditions, values, and autonomy. Their structure allows each society to take advantage of high-end resources (both in staff and technology) as needed to effectively meet the needs of the individual members of each society. Some of you may belong to other societies managed by FASS and may be familiar with their structure. Please visit their Web site (www.fass.org) for more information on their offices, staff, and services.

As a reminder, all correspondence should be directed to:

American Embryo Transfer Association
1111 N. Dunlap Ave.
Savoy, IL 61874
Phone: 217-398-2217
Fax: 217-398-4119
General e-mail: aeta@assochq.org

The phone number listed above will direct you to Jennifer Gavel, who serves as the chief administrative officer for certification for AETA. You may also reach her directly via e-mail at jennig@assochq.org. An additional FASS member who will be supporting AETA is Lorena Nicholas, who will be serving as AETA executive director. You may reach her directly at 217-356-3182, Ext. 27 or lorenan@assochq.org. Chuck Sapp, executive VP-administration for FASS, will also be instrumental during the transition period, specifically regarding financial policies and procedures.

Chuck, who is also a certified public accountant, will be working with the board to continue to develop and implement new committees and procedures related to the financial oversight of AETA. Both Chuck and Lorena attended the annual meeting in Calgary and participated in the board and business meetings, and also provided overall meeting support and management. Chuck also spoke during the annual business meeting. Below are portions of that presentation that pertain specifically to areas that the board felt were critical in selecting a new management company.

**Accounting and Protecting the Society’s Assets**

- FASS and each of its employees is insured and bonded. There is no risk of loss to AETA due to FASS’ (or its employees) negligence or illegal actions.
- Redundancy of accounting staff ensures that no one individual has unlimited control or access to AETA assets.
- FASS is a corporate entity with a board of directors—it is not a sole proprietorship.
- All entities managed by FASS are separate and autonomous not-for-profit societies with their own bank accounts and there is never co-mingling of funds.

The AETA Board of Directors will be holding their Winter Board Meeting at the new headquarters office in Savoy, IL, which is just outside of Champaign–Urbana. All AETA members are welcome to visit the office at any time to view the facilities and meet with the staff members that work on AETA. Additionally, you may contact Chuck Sapp (chucks@assochq.org) or Lorena Nicholas (lorenan@assochq.org) at any time for more information on FASS or AETA daily activities.
President Hinshaw called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

Previous business meeting minutes were approved (motion by Dr. Kennel, seconded by Dr. Engelland)

Election of Directors: Dr. DeGroff presented each candidate. Candidates included: Dr. Cheryl Nelson, Dr. Ronald Kling, Dr. Kirk Gray, and Dr. Stan Huels. Each candidate spoke briefly. Dr. Armbrust moved that nominations should cease and the membership should cast their ballots. Dr. Richards seconded, the motion passed, and votes were cast. Dr. Nelson and Dr. Kling were elected as new directors to the AETA Board of Directors.

Dr. Armbrust delivered the Cooperator Committee Report

President Hinshaw delivered the President’s report, which included the following

- An update on the GMO situation, including a full timeline of events
- A report by Chuck Sapp, Executive VP-administration of FASS
- A report by Dr. Whitaker detailing the proposed Audit Committee
- A financial report presented by Dr. Rea, AETA Treasurer. Dr. Whitaker moved to accept the financial report. Dr. Hughes seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting was opened up for questions and comments. Considerable discussion occurred. The resulting discussion included a motion to assess members to help cover any shortfall of operating cash caused by the GMO situation. Dr. Armbrust moved that all regular members be assessed $150 (in addition to their annual membership dues) for 2004. Additionally, any members who have contributed any amount shall receive a credit towards assessment for that amount. Dr. Keim seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Rea asked to speak regarding the 2004 AETA meeting in Tampa, as he received word during the business meeting that CETA would like to join AETA in 2004. Discussion followed. Dr. Hughes moved that AETA and CETA should have a joint meeting in 2004 in Tampa. Dr. Nelson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Whitman moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dr. Whitaker seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

TO THE MEMBERS OF AETA:

My heartfelt thanks for the many phone calls, cards and letters I have received from so many members of the AETA since my recent illness. You have no idea how much it meant to me to know so many people cared. I’m happy to let you know I’m well on the road to recovery. After I had been home for a while, I was told how critical I had been. The credit for my recovery goes to my nurse daughter, Janie, for her professional and loving care, along with a great team of doctors.

I am so sorry about what happened to the AETA this past year. It took me a long time to believe it was really true. Along with many of you, I’m sure, I felt very betrayed.

I have many fond memories of so many of you. You all have a special place in my heart. It was my personal pleasure to know and work with each of you for so many years.

Take care and please continue to keep in touch with me.

Fondly,
Jan Weiler
INCREASED PREGNANCY RATES IN BOS TAURUS × BOS INDICUS EMBRYO RECIPIENTS WITH TREATMENTS TO INCREASE PLASMA PROGESTERONE CONCENTRATIONS

M.O. Marques1, L.F. Nasser1, R.C.P. Silva2, G.A. Bo2, P.S. Baruselli1

1Departamento de Reproducao Animal, FMVZ-USP, Sao Paulo, SP, Brazil; 2Instituto de Reproduccion Animal Cordoba (IRAC), Cordoba, Argentina; 3Field Veterinarian, Cornelio Procopio, PR, Brazil

It has been shown that plasma progesterone (P4) concentrations are positively correlated to embryo development, interferon-τ production by the conceptus and pregnancy recognition in cattle. In a previous work (Marques et al., Theriogenology 2002;57:548 abst.), we demonstrated that treatments with 1500 IU of hCG on Day 7 of the estrous cycle induced formation of accessory CL, improved plasma P4 concentration and increased the length of the estrous cycle in Bos taurus × Bos indicus heifers. The aim of the present experiment was to evaluate the effect of hCG, GnRH, LH or P4 treatments given at the time of direct embryo transfer on pregnancy rates in Bos taurus × Bos indicus cross-bred recipient heifers. Animals were kept on pasture regimen at commercial farms in Brazil and were synchronized with one im injection of a prostaglandin F2α analog. Heifers detected in estrus were examined by rectal palpation or ultrasonography 6 to 8 days after estrus. Those with a detectable CL (n=485) received a Grade 1 or 2 frozen/thawed embryo (in 1.5 M ethylene glycol) by direct transfer performed by 1 of 5 veterinarians. Immediately after the embryo transfer, recipients were randomly assigned to receive 1 of 5 treatments: Control (2 mL of saline im; n=98), GnRH (10 µg of Buserelin im, Conceptal, Hoechst, Brazil; n=99), hCG (1500 IU im, Chorulon, Intervet, Netherlands; n=96), LH (25 mg Armour pLH im, Lutropin-V, Vetrepharm Canada Inc.; n=97) or a CIDR-B device for 13 days (1.9g of P4, Pharmacia, Brazil; n=95). Pregnancy diagnosis was determined by real-time ultrasonography (Aloka SSD 500, Aloka Corp., Japan) 40 to 60 days after embryo transfer. Conception rates were analyzed by non-parametric one-way ANOVA (SAS System). The pregnancy rate in heifers treated with GnRH (53/99, 53.5%) was higher (P<0.05) than that of heifers treated with CIDR devices (39/95, 41.1%), but they did not differ from those of hCG (49/96, 51.0%) or LH (44/97, 45.4%) treated heifers. Furthermore, pregnancy rate in heifers in the untreated control group was lower than expected (28/98, 28.6%) and was significantly lower (P<0.05) than all treated groups. Effects of veterinarian (P=0.28), embryo quality (P=0.68), day of the recipient’s estrous cycle at the time of embryo transfer (P=0.67) and farm (P=0.13) did not influence conception rates. We concluded that treatments aiming at the increase of P4 after embryo transfer can improve conception rates in Bos taurus × Bos indicus cross-bred heifers receiving frozen/thawed embryos. Further experiments are needed to evaluate if these treatments would increase pregnancy rates in recipients with normal conception rates (around 50%).

FAPESP, Tecnopec/Vetrepharm and Intervet

AETA Board of Directors Meeting  
September 3, 2003, Calgary, Canada  
Highlights

1) First official meeting with FASS, Chuck Sapp and, Lorena Nicholas  
   a. Prepare 2003 financial statement and proposed 2004 budget  
   b. Discuss possible sources of revenue
2) Address Certification Committee Recommendations  
   a. New qualifications for certification  
   b. Need for chief administrative officer  
   c. Straw and Cane labeling recommendations  
3) Discussions followed other committee reports  
   a. Annual Meeting  
   b. Exhibits  
   c. Resolution Committee
4) Conference call with Gene Summerlin—AETA legal representation for GMO resolution  
   Update on situation.
5) Formation of Audit Committee  
   a. Three member committee to oversee AETA financial status
6) Other business discussions  
   a. Future meeting sites of Board meetings and Annual Convention  
   b. New AETA Web site

Bovine Embryo Transfer Workshop for Veterinarians  
March 26 – 28, 2004

The objective is to provide the veterinarian with practical, hands-on exposure to the application of embryo transfer in cattle. A brief review of the physiology and endocrinology of the bovine estrous cycle will precede the discussion of superovulation and synchronization of ovulation of donor and recipient animals. Embryo recovery techniques, as well as transfer methods, including direct transfer, will be illustrated and demonstrated. Freezing and thawing of embryos will be discussed, demonstrated, and practiced.

Two-thirds of the workshop will be devoted to laboratory time when participants will practice recovery techniques on live dairy cows, manipulate ova and embryos under the microscope, and practice freezing and thawing embryos. Participants will be provided with a training manual, which contains a set of exercises, list of equipment and supplies needed, as well as treatment schedules. Enrollment will be limited to 20 veterinarians.

Workshop Coordinator: Maarten Drost, DVM  
To be held at: The University of Florida Veterinary Teaching Hospital  
Fee: $650

For further information on registration, contact:  
Theresa Moody  
Bovine Embryo Transfer Workshop  
College of Veterinary Medicine  
PO Box 100136  
Gainesville, FL 32610-0136  
Phone: (352) 392-4700, Ext. 5609  
Fax: (352) 392-8289  
E-mail: moodyt@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu
Keota Veterinarian Receives Top Award from Iowa State University

Dr. Richard A. Carmichael, Keota, Iowa, was recognized with Iowa State University’s highest honor awarded to alumni of its College of Veterinary Medicine, during special ceremonies held October 17 and 18. The Stange Award in Veterinary Medicine is named in memory of a long-time alumnus in recognition of outstanding professional achievements in veterinary education, research, government service, or private practice.

In accepting the award, Dr. Carmichael said, “To be presented this distinguished Stange Award by my peers and to join an elite group of past recipients is certainly the highlight of my career.”

Dr. Carmichael, a recognized pioneer in the field of embryo transfer, is the president and owner of Maplehurst Genetics International, Inc., the oldest commercial embryo transfer facility in the United States. He was one of the early proponents of bovine embryo transfer and was involved in the successful importation of embryos of European cattle breeds into the United States in the 1960s and ’70s. He has remained committed to embryo transfer techniques both in the United States and abroad.

Dr. Carmichael was instrumental in the creation of the International Embryo Transfer Society and the American Embryo Transfer Association, serving as president of both. He has also served in leadership roles in other professional associations.

His previous awards include the 1989 Tough Egg Award from the American Embryo Transfer Association and the 1985 Embryo Transfer Practitioner of the Year Award from Schering-Plough Animal Health. He has presented numerous seminars and written many research articles for U.S. and international audiences.

In the words of several colleagues, Dr. Carmichael’s hard work and can-do attitude have contributed greatly to the development of the embryo transfer industry on an international scale.

Excerpt from a Nebraska FACE Program publication:

A 38-year-old Nebraska cattleman died as a result of an accidental injection of an animal antibiotic known as Micotil, which has no known antidote. On March 8, 2003, the victim was preparing to vaccinate a heifer inside a barn. He was carrying a 12 cc-plastic disposable syringe in his right hand when a cow that was in an adjacent pen charged him, striking the fence between the two. The victim was knocked to the ground. Either when struck or from the fall, he was injected with an unknown amount of the antibiotic. He immediately began to feel dizzy and nauseous. He was able to return to the “vet room” inside the barn and call his wife who was nearby in the house. An ambulance was called, and the victim was rushed to a nearby hospital where he died less than an hour later.

Recommendations for Micotil use:

· Veterinarians and animal health distributors prior to releasing Micotil should require the purchaser to sign a product information fact sheet every time they purchase the product which indicates Micotil can be fatal in humans and that there is no antidote for this medication
· Users of syringe-loaded medications should practice safe handling procedures during all phases of animal treatment.
· Veterinarians/cattleman, when practical, should consider using another, less-hazardous antibiotic.
· All companies/agencies responsible for the manufacture and/or approval of veterinary medicines and supplies should continue to devise new products that will reduce unintentional human exposure to accidental needle sticks/injections.
PRESIDENT
Dr. Larry Kennel
Cornerstone Genetics
1489 Grandview Road
Mount Joy, PA 17552
(717) 653-4825
Fax: (717) 653-6966
lkdvm@juno.com

VICE PRESIDENT
Dr. Thomas L. Rea
Genetics West
17890 WCR5
Berthoud, CO 80513
(970) 535-0788
Fax: (970) 535-0788
trgeneticswest@aol.com

SECRETARY-TREASURER
Dr. Pat Richards
Pat Richards DVM
1215 E. 2000 Street
Bliss, ID 83314
(208) 352-1934
Fax: (208) 352-1934
richards@magiclink.com

DIRECTORS
Dr. Dan Hornnickel
Sunshine Genetics, Inc.
W7782 U.S. Hwy. 12
Whitewater, WI 53190
(262) 473-8903
Fax: (262) 473-3660
sunshine@idcnet.com

Dr. Todd Bickett
Bickett Genetics, Inc.
455 Brotherton Lane
Chickamauga, GA 30707
(706) 375-6586
Fax: (706) 375-6586
tjbickett@aol.com

Dr. Cheryl F. Nelson
Nelson Reproductive Service
1735 Pinckard Pike
Versailles, KY 40383
(859) 873-7319

Dr. Ron Kling
New Vision Transplants
456 Springs Road
Grantsville, MD 21536
(301) 895-5232
Fax: (301) 895-5237
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Richard O. Whitaker
New England Genetics Corporation
10 Business Park Way
Turner, ME 04282
(207) 225-2722
Fax: (207) 225-3883
moodoc@megalink.net

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Dr. Randall H. Hinshaw
Ashby Embryos
1685 Office One Garbers Church Road
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
(540) 433-0430
Fax: (540) 433-0452
rhinshaw@rica.net

AETA Certification Exam Location

The next AETA Certification Exam will be administered during the IETS Annual Conference in January. Please see details below. If you would like to sign up to take the exam, please contact the AETA Business Office at aeta@assochq.org or (217) 398-2217 at least 21 days before the exam.

Exam Date and Time: 8 a.m., Sunday, January 11, 2004,
Exam Location: DoubleTree Jantzen Beach Hotel, Portland, Oregon (503)283-4466
2003 CONVENTION SPONSORS

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BIONICHE ANIMAL HEALTH, INC
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Morning coffee break on Sept. 5
SCHERING-PLOUGH ANIMAL HEALTH
Golf tournament

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Edwin Robertson, DVM, Chairman
Harrogate Genetics International Inc.
P. O. BOX 1
Harrogate, Tennessee 37752
Phone: (423) 869-3152
Fax: (423) 869-5546
E-mail: edwinrobertson@hotmail.com

Certification Committee
Joseph M. Wright, DVM, Chairman
Genetics Management Service
PO Box 598
Castroville, Texas 78009-0598
Phone: (830) 538-6474
Fax: (830) 538-2260
E-mail: joewri@writeme.com

Convention Exhibit Committee
Patrick M. Richards, DVM, Chairman
1215 East 2000 South
Bliss, Idaho 83314
Phone: (208) 539-3076
Fax: (208)352-1934
E-mail: richards@magiclink.com

Convention/Program Planning Committee
Thomas L. Rea, DVM, Chairman
Genetics West
17890 WCR 5
Berthoud, Colorado 80513
Phone: (970)535-0788
Fax: (970) 535-0788
E-mail: trgeneticswest@aol.com

Cooperator Committee
Scott W. Armbrust, DVM, Chairman
Paradocs Embryo Transfer Inc.
121 Packerland Drive
Green Bay, Wisconsin 54303
Phone: (920) 498-8262
Fax: (920) 498-8181
E-mail: pdocset@sbcglobal.net

Government Liaison & Animal Health & Regulations Committee
Richard O. Whitaker, DVM, Chairman
New England Genetics Corporation
10 Business Park Way
Turner, Maine 04282
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Fax: (207) 657-5542
E-mail: moodoc@megalink.net

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Thomas A. Borum, DVM, Chairman
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145 East Franklin Street
Natchez, Mississippi 39120
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GMO Resolution Committee
Randall H. Hinshaw, DVM, Chairman
Ashby Embryos/Ashby Herd Health Services Inc.
1685 Office 1 Garbers Church Road
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801-4525
Phone: (540) 433-0430
Fax: (540) 433-0452
E-mail: RHinshaw@RICA.NET

Newsletter Committee
John F. Hasler, PhD, Chairman
427 Obenchain Road
Laporte, Colorado 80535
Phone: (970) 377-2670
E-mail: jfhasler@viawest.net

Nominating Committee
Randall H. Hinshaw, DVM, Chairman
Ashby Embryos/Ashby Herd Health Services Inc.
1685 Office 1 Garbers Church Road
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801-4525
Phone: (540) 433-0430
Fax: (540) 433-0452
E-mail: RHinshaw@RICA.NET

Professional Review Committee
Larry Kennel, DVM, Chairman
1489 Grandview Rd.
Mount Joy, Pennsylvania 17552
Phone: (717)653-4825
Fax: (717)653-6966
E-mail: lkdvm@juno.com

Statistical Information Committee
Steve Hughes, DVM
7732 Garnett St
Lenexa, Kansas 66214
Phone: (913)961-6666
E-mail: sth2897@yahoo.com
New Membership ID Numbers

You may have noticed on your membership renewal (and on the mailing label on this newsletter) your new AETA Membership ID number. Please make note of this number as it will be your access to the “members-only” portion of the newly designed AETA website. Logging in is simple: your last name should go in “user name” and your password is your membership number. If you forget your membership number, please e-mail aeta@assochq.org or call 217-398-2217 for that information.

2004 Annual Convention
October 13–16, 2004, Tampa, FL.
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INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS
for embryo transfer

Produced and backed by:

Experience
• 35 years in the animal reproduction industry
• R & D staff and animal facility
• On-site production of packaging and powder/liquid media

Technology
• Dedicated clean room production facility
• Custom-designed packaging
• Unique sterile filling process

Quality Control
• Certified components
• Ultra-Pure Type I water
• Validation for: STERILITY • COMPOSITION • TOXICITY • BIOCOMPATIBILITY

Contact Minitube for more information about its ET product line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AVAILABLE NOW</th>
<th>COMING SOON</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BoviPro™ Recovery</td>
<td>Solutions for Embryo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(1.0, 1.5, and 2.0 liter)</td>
<td>Holding, Freezing,</td>
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<tr>
<td>BoviPro™ TL Hepes (500 ml)</td>
<td>Thawing, and IVF</td>
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<tr>
<td>EquiPro™ Recovery (2.0 liter)</td>
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Minitube of America, Inc. Verona Wisconsin usa@mintube.com 800.646.4882
Minitube Canada Ingersoll, Ontario canada@mintube.com 800.500.7978