

Lesson 6.2 Glossary

A

Artificial insemination – The deposition of spermatozoa in the female genitalia by artificial rather than by natural means.

C

Cloning – When cells or organisms are genetically identical to each other, they are said to be clones.

Crossbreeding – The breeding of plants or animals that belong to different races, breeds, and varieties.

E

Embryo transfer – The removal of developing embryos from one female and their transfer to the uterus of another; it usually involves the superovulation of superior females and the transfer of their embryos in an attempt to increase the number of superior offspring.

Estrus synchronization – Using synthetic hormones to make a group of females come into heat at the same time.

H

Hand breeding (hand mating) – A system of animal breeding in which the breeder controls the number of times coitus is performed.

Heat – An animal in estrus that is ready to breed.

Heterosis – The amount of superiority observed or measured in crossbred animals compared with the average of their purebred parents; hybrid vigor

Hybrid vigor – The increase of size, speed of growth, and vitality of a crossbreed over its parents. See heterosis.

I

Inbreeding – The mating of very closely related animals such as mother and son, father and daughter, brother and sister. In experienced hands it can be used to maintain certain desirable traits through selection; if used improperly it can produce undesirable traits and downgrade stock.

L

Line breeding – Mating of selected members of successive generations among themselves in an effort to maintain or fix desirable characteristics.

M

Mate – To pair off two animals of opposite sexes for reproduction. Mating may be for a single season or for life.

Morphology – A branch of biologic science that deals with the forms, rather than the functions, of plants and animals.

Motility – Active movement in artificial insemination of the sperm in a male's semen.

N

Natural breeding – A system of breeding that pairs a live male and female; often referred to as live cover.

P

Pasture breeding (pasture mating) – A system of breeding that allows animals to mate at will in the pasture or field.

S

Superovulation – The stimulation of more than the usual number of ovulations during a single estrous cycle due to the injection of certain hormones.