

## **Freemartin Determination**

Genserve Laboratories offer a DNA based test for the determination of freemartin characteristics in cattle.

What is a “Freemartin”?

Freemartinism is recognized as one of the most severe forms of sexual abnormality among cattle. This condition causes infertility in the female cattle born twin to a male. When a heifer twin shares the uterus with a bull fetus, they also share the placental membranes connecting the fetuses with the dam.

### **Testing Requirements**

1. The female twin must be at least 6 to 8 weeks of age before it can be tested.
2. Drawn blood in a 10ml vial with a green or lavender stopper. Label the vial with the animal’s identification – tattoo, tag or unique identification. Only fresh, whole blood can be used for freemartin testing. Do not freeze or overheat the blood. Ship the sample via courier after it has been drawn.
3. Obtain an application form from your Breed Association office or Genserve Laboratories. Complete the application form with as much information as possible and send the completed form along with the blood sample to Genserve Laboratories for testing.
4. Test results will be reported to your Breed Association office. For non-pedigreed samples, please provide a complete mailing address on the Application form where the results may be sent.
5. Testing fees are invoiced to your Breed Association office. For non-pedigreed samples, the fees are \$65.00 plus GST payable to Saskatchewan Research Council at the time the samples are submitted. Results will be released after payment has been made.

Submit samples to:

**Genserve Laboratories  
c/o Saskatchewan Research Council  
125 – 15 Innovation Blvd  
Saskatoon, SK S7N 2X8**