

NINJA BOSHOFF

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION STATION MANAGER

Porcsem Semen

MScAgric in Animal Science



MY STORY

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS CAREER PATH?

I love animals and I love working with people too. I enjoy the challenges that form part of my daily tasks. I find animal reproduction intriguing and stand in awe every day of how great God created creatures. Artificial insemination creates possibilities which previously would not have been possible, especially considering genetic gain for animal production for specific economic traits.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

I am responsible for the day to day running of the A.I. station. I am head of the lab for semen analysis and I oversee client liaison on a weekly basis. My job also entails quite a bit of admin to ensure free-flowing production. I keep an eye on boar health and ensure that maintenance is kept up to date in the lab and in the boar houses. We call our main collection days "tapping days" and on these days there is little time to sit around. It requires your full attention throughout the production period. We have 2 tapping days per week. Porcsem Semen runs a compartmentalized unit and renewal of this status is my yearly responsibility.

WHAT PART OF THIS CAREER DO YOU ENJOY MOST?

I enjoy semen analysis and the research we do to test the limits of semen longevity. It is a very specialized field, thus the information gained is of vital importance for the South African market. I work with a great team and together we push the limits of pig semen livability for the farmer. The positive feedback we get from our clients is heart-warming and confirms that we are doing our jobs right. I like the responsibility that comes with my title, as it gives me purpose and drives me



DO I FIT THE PROFILE?



If you have a passion for animals, research, and people, also excelling at problem solving, logical thinking and have great organizational skills, this career type would suit you. I really enjoy what I do, thus it was an easy choice for me.

SOME ADVICE

Animal science and specifically Animal Physiology is a fantastic field! If this field intrigues you and you get an opportunity to pursue it, go for it! It really is such a specialized field and with the right mentors you will be able to master the tasks expected from you. Never be afraid of hard work – as it does pay off.



CAREER HIGHLIGHTS TO DATE?

I went to Germany for analysis training; I work with world-class scientists; I have been privileged to present multiple PowerPoint presentations at study groups to present and promote our station as provider of top pig genetics with fantastic service.



SKILLS, TALENTS AND QUALITIES

Working with semen it is especially important to be accurate. A small mistake when doing analysis can lead to big inaccuracies when calculating number of doses that can be produced for insemination. Then it is also of vital importance to be a problem solver. There are issues arising every day that need to be handled and solved. Another important quality to possess is people skills. You need to be willing and able to work together in a team but also take the lead when called for. You need to have a passion for the animals you work with. The boars we use in the A.I. station are big animals and demand a certain level of respect. You need to be able to work independently and believe in yourself. One of the biggest downfalls of people is because they do not believe in themselves enough. You need to have a strong personality and always try and stay humble when dealing with clients and colleagues alike.

