

Biobest Faecal Egg Count Guidelines



Faecal egg counts can have a certain amount of variability which makes it difficult to perform quality control of in-house faecal egg counts when compared to samples tested in the lab. Note that the most important factors are correct sample collection/storage, sample homogenisation and the experience of staff performing the faecal egg count. Eggs can hatch or deteriorate in the period between sample collection and testing which will affect the result.

We undertake regular internal quality checks as well as external quality assurance. Lab based pooling of faecal samples ensures that the result is representative. Our scientists also have extensive training and experience.

Factors that can affect the result:

1. Delay between taking samples and testing
2. Air in bag/sample pot
3. If samples are kept in a warm area
4. Equipment that is used, for example using a stomacher to homogenise samples rather than doing this by hand and using a centrifuge compared to leaving samples to sediment on the bench

Sampling guidelines which follow current thoughts on best practice:

1. Gather animals in the corner of a field/pen
2. Leave the group for 5 – 10 mins then allow the animals to move away
3. Take individual fresh samples of 5g each (heaped tsp). Collect a larger sample if further tests such as liver fluke are needed.
4. Take 10 – 15 individual samples in individual bags/containers
5. Collect warm, shiny, fresh samples (avoid cold, old ones)
6. Remove as much air from bag as possible or fill up container
7. If you are pooling samples yourself to send to the lab, the samples must be of the same size. Ideally individual samples will be sent for pooling at the lab (carried out by weight).
8. Post samples as soon as possible after collection. If a short delay, store in fridge. Try not to sample or post on a Friday.
9. If completing a post drench check, ensure correct interval is used (7 days for Levamisole, 14 days for all other wormers).

Moredun video with sampling guidelines:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YAhiaLSjpbU>