

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for collection and storage of faecal samples in cattle farm

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1. GOAL

These SOPs provide instructions for the collection and the storage of faecal samples in cattle farms/herds.

2. EQUIPMENTS AND MATERIALS

- Disposable long-sleeved gloves
- Disposable gowns
- Disposable boot covers
- Vacuum packing machine
- Vacuum bags
- Felt tip pen

3. METHODOLOGY AND PROCEDURES

3.1 Faecal sample collection

Collect individual rectal faecal samples (minimum 50g) from 20 animals for each farm. Weaned animals at first grazing season are preferable.

3.2 Faecal sample storage

Samples should best reach the lab at the day of sampling and be cooled to below +10 °C during transport. The samples can be stored for 5 days at +4-8 °C; if there is no possibility to analyse the samples within 5 days of sampling, keep the faecal samples in a vacuum packed plastic bag (Rinaldi et al., 2011) (or use anaerobic storage) and store them up to three weeks in the fridge at +4–8 °C (refrigeration is needed to prevent fungal growth).

References

Bosco A, Nocerino M, Santaniello M, Maurelli MP, Cringoli G, Rinaldi L. Mapping the spatial distribution of the rumen fluke *Calicophoron daubneyi* in a Mediterranean area. *Pathogens*. 10(9):1122, 2021.

Rinaldi L, Coles GC, Maurelli MP, Musella V, Cringoli G. Calibration and diagnostic accuracy of simple flotation, McMaster and FLOTAC for parasite egg counts in sheep. *Vet Parasitol*. 177, 345-352, 2011.

Prof. Maria Paola Maurelli



04/05/2022

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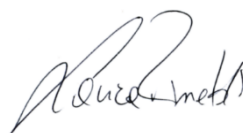


Reviewers

Signature

Date

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05/05/2022

Approver

Signature

Date

Appendix 1. Faecal sample collection sheet – Cattle Farm/Herd

Farm/Herd ID: _____
City: _____ Province: _____
GPS coordinates: Longitude (N/S): _____ Latitude (E/W): _____ Altitude: _____
Name of the Collector: _____ Date of collection: _____

Cattle ID	Breed	Gender	Age	BCS*
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Body Condition Score