Collection and Submission Guidelines for Johne’s Fecal PCR Testing

Sample Submission: Complete the Herd Serology/PCR submission form. Enclose a copy with samples.

- You must indicate whether the samples should be pooled or tested individually, otherwise submissions containing greater than 5 samples will be pooled. **Note: samples must be pooled at the laboratory!**
- Enter animal identification on the Sample Identification Form. Age, sex and breed are not required.
  - Tip: Place sample(s) you wish to have tested individually at the end of the list and clearly indicate the sample(s) is to be tested individually next to the animal identification number/name.
  - Enclose a copy of the Sample Identification Form with the samples and email the form (do not scan or fax) to ndsu.vetlab@ndsu.edu using the owner’s last name as the subject.

Sample Collection: Because the Johne’s PCR assay is very sensitive, it is critical that samples are not cross-contaminated during collection.

- Collect a minimum of 5 grams (~1 teaspoon) of feces directly from the rectum and place in a clean container. **Clean, dry rectal sleeves are preferred.** If lubricant is needed for collection use water or OB lubricant. Do not use soaps or oils. Use a separate, clean glove for each sample. Collect the sample in a dry sleeve, turn the sleeve inside out, and squeeze the fecal material into the fingers/finger. **Tie a knot close to the hand end to keep the fecal material confined and again towards the top to confine material that was on the outside of the sleeve.** Do not shorten the sleeve. Collection from the ground or floor is not recommended.
- Other containers acceptable for submission include: any wide-mouthed screw capped plastic jars, small Ziploc bags—NO blood tubes, Whirl-Paks, or exam gloves.
- Wipe all fecal material from the outside of the sleeve or container.

**Labeling**: Label the samples with the sample number AND specimen ID directly on the sleeve or specimen container using permanent ink; allow ink to dry so that it does not smudge. If a sleeve is submitted in a labeled bag, the sleeve MUST also be labeled. Do not staple labels to sleeve or Ziploc bag.

**Storage and Shipment**: Fecal samples must be chilled quickly and kept cold. When collecting during warmer months, place fecal samples in a cooler with cold packs; transfer samples to refrigerator ASAP. Fecal samples can be refrigerated for up to 2 weeks. **Freezing is not recommended, but samples can be frozen for up to 1 month before shipping to the lab. Include ice packs to keep samples cool; this also prevents containers from bursting open during shipment.**

Please contact the laboratory with any questions at 701-231-8307 or 701-231-7527 or visit the VDL website at www.vdl.ndsu.edu.