

## Collection and Submission of Samples for Bovine *Tritrichomonas* Testing

The NDSU-VDL uses a PCR assay to test for *Tritrichomonas*. The test is sensitive and does not cross-react with commensals or fecal trichomonads. The best results are obtained from properly collected and transported samples.

### Submission:

- Fill out the Herd Serology/PCR Submission Form and enclose a copy with the samples.
- The collection date **must** be noted on the submission form. Failure to do so may cause a delay in testing.
- The submitter must indicate on the submission form that samples should be pooled. Samples must be pooled at the laboratory. Individuals in positive pools will be automatically retested and charged accordingly. Pooling of samples is not recommended for testing of animals from herds infected with *Tritrichomonas* or herds in which a high degree of suspicion exists.
  - **The submitter is responsible for checking destination state requirements concerning pooling of samples for *Tritrichomonas* testing.**

### Collection and Storage:

- Collection notes for direct preputial washings (preferred sample):
  - Remove extraneous material and soiled hair. Do not cleanse sampling area with disinfectants (inactivates protozoa).
  - Use a clean pair of exam gloves for each sample.
  - *An appropriately collected washing should be light pink and cloudy with visible material and little blood or debris. A minimum of 2 ml of liquid is required. Clear samples and samples with significant blood or debris contamination are not appropriate for testing and may either be rejected or reported with a disclaimer on test results.*
- Refrigerate samples after collection. Samples should be submitted in a sterile screwcap containers or red top tubes (without serum separator gel or preservatives).
- Samples should be submitted on cold packs.
- DO NOT collect samples in Whirl-paks or urine cups as samples tend to leak, which may result in contamination of other samples. Leaking samples may be rejected.
- InPouch™ sample collection: Inoculate the InPouch™ and incubate 24-48 hours at 37°C **before** sending to the laboratory. During transport, protect from exposure to sunlight or temperature extremes. Inoculated InPouch™ samples must be maintained at 15-37°C. Do not freeze.

### Shipping:

- Overnight shipping to the laboratory is recommended. **Samples must be received by the laboratory within 5 days of collection date or the sample(s) will be rejected as false negative results may be possible.**
- Avoid shipping on Friday, over long weekends, or delivering samples over the weekend as the laboratory does not receive mail or deliveries over the weekend. Be mindful of the 5-day collection window, particularly over holiday weekends.