

Faecal Sampling for BEEP-S

Martina Harrington, Teagasc Beef Specialist

Faecal Egg Testing is one of the optional measures under BEEP-S. The aim of the measure is to achieve targeted control of liver fluke in adult suckler cows.

Samples have to be submitted to an approved Lab before the **3rd of October**.

It's worth €10 per animal sampled up to 100 animals.

Collecting the sample

Contact one of the approved Labs listed in the table below and order a sample pack. The sample pack will contain ten 30ml screw cap plastic containers (push on caps are not allowed) and a zip lock bag.

Only samples from the approved labs listed below are eligible for payment

Company Name	Contact Email	Contact No.
Irish Equine Centre	iec@irishequinecentre.ie	045 866266
Animal Health Labs ltd	info@ahli.ie	023 8854100
Independent Milk Lab	enquiries@imlabs.ie	042 9675353
Farm Lab Diagnostics	info@farmlab.ie	071 9630792
Oldcastle Labs	info@oldcastlelabs.ie	049 8541160
Paralabs	info@paralabs.ie	087 2931167
Agri Diagnostics Ireland Ltd	labs@agridiagnostics.ie	064 6633922

How to take a faecal egg sample

- 10 different samples should be taken from 10 different cows
- If you have less than 10 cows sample the same cow twice.
- Wearing gloves, collect fresh samples in the morning after a period of rest. If taken from older dung pats, the eggs may have hatched or dried out, so you will not get an accurate reading.
- As cows are quietly disturbed, they should dung in one spot.
- Worm eggs are not evenly distributed in dung pats, therefore take a sample from a number of different places in the same dung path.
 - » Dung should be placed in sample pots and write the tag number of the cow on the sample bottle. Place the sample in container and repeat 9 times.
- Place the sample bottles in a sealed, airtight zip lock bag.

Sending the samples to the laboratory

- Place the zip lock bag in a padded envelope or similar
- Fill in the required information on slip, the more information the better. Include recent dosing history
 - » Mark the envelope “Biological Sample” and post
 - » Post to the lab that day or a least within 24 hours of collection
- **Do not** post from Thursday on in case they are left in the post over the weekend.
- **Do not** place samples in fridge
- **Do not** freeze
- **Do not** place in direct sunlight
- Once tested you and the Department will be notified of the result.

Note: One set of samples will qualify you for the Scheme, however, if you have a larger herd you should consider taking one sample per 40 cows.

Additional resources

Aidan Murray, Teagasc Beef Specialist gives an overview of faecal egg testing for liver and rumen fluke in suckler cows which is one of the optional measures of action 3 of BEEP-s.

View the video at <https://youtu.be/9-CFKduNyik> or scan the QR code.

