



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY FECAL TESTING

## FECAL TESTING OFFERED

- **Direct Fecal Exam**- Isolate/Ova identification only. Least sensitive method; not recommended for routine fecal examinations.
- **Qualitative (Float)** - Isolate/Ova identification only.
- **Quantitative (Modified McMaster)**- Isolate/Ova identification & eggs per gram (EPG).
- **Baermann (Lungworm)** - Isolate/Ova identification only. Not suggested for routine fecal examinations.

*Consultation with your Veterinarian is highly recommended* to assure test method selection meets the needs of each animal or your herd/flock management plan. Selection of an appropriate testing method may be affected by factors such as clinical symptoms, general herd/flock management plan, or desired test sensitivity.

## COLLECTION & STORAGE OF SAMPLES

<p><b>COLLECT</b> ——— <b>REFRIGERATE</b> ——— <b>DELIVER ASAP</b></p> <p>FRESH is BEST!</p>	<p>Excessive heat or cold may kill parasites</p>	<p>Fragile parasites can disappear within hours or days</p>
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- **Submit several grams:** At least 4 grams (optimal); less than 2 grams (direct or float only); 15 grams required for Baermann.
- **Fresh** fecal samples are best. Fragile parasites or eggs may die or disappear within hours or days.
- Rectal collection or collection immediately following defecation is **best**.
- **Refrigerate** immediately following collection & deliver with ice packs. **DO NOT** freeze.
- Submission of gloves or rectal sleeves is **highly discouraged**. Please transfer samples to a zip baggie or spill-proof container, double bagging recommended for handling. To avoid cross contamination, remove debris with an appropriate disinfectant.
- **Label samples with animal name/ID** and any other information needed to distinguish individual samples (e.g. owner last name).
- Fill out the appropriate laboratory **submission form** (see Forms & Fees link), matching samples and paperwork.
  - **Please specify test requested according to test options above.**
- Deliver samples **as soon as possible**. If shipping, package according to IATA/DOT regulations for biological samples with ice packs. See MDA website for guidance: <http://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/laboratory.aspx#shipping>
- It is the goal of the MDA Animal Health Laboratory System to provide results as soon as possible. **Please call ahead to arrange testing of large numbers (> 10 samples)**. This will assure the laboratory is able to test samples while they are fresh, particularly during fecal test surges (e.g. spring season) or prior to a weekend or holiday.



## SAMPLE SUBMISSION SUMMARY

COLLECT AT LEAST  
**4 GRAMS**  
(15G BAERMANN ONLY)

STORE & SHIP COLD  
IMMEDIATELY REFRIGERATE  
SHIP WITH ICE PACKS

DELIVER/SHIP ASAP

SUBMISSION OF  
**LESS THAN 2 GRAMS –**  
DIRECT/FLOAT ONLY

**48 HOUR TURN-AROUND\***

\*CALL AHEAD FOR TESTING OF LARGE NUMBERS (>10 SAMPLES)

### ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORIES

Frederick – (301) 600-1548  
1840 Rosemont Ave.  
Frederick, MD 21702

Salisbury – (410) 543-6610  
27722 Nanticoke Rd.  
Salisbury, MD 21801

### FORMS & FEES

<http://mda.maryland.gov/animalHealth/Pages/laboratory.aspx>