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

- 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