

# Faecal egg counts

Faecal egg counts are a quick and simple method for determining the worm burdens of groups of animals by counting the numbers of parasite eggs in faecal samples. They are useful to:

- Monitor the effectiveness of worm control programmes
- Determine if there is a need for drenching
- Help to identify the causes of scouring and wasting
- Evaluate drench effectiveness and investigate drench failure

For most purposes, examination of faecal samples from 10 to 12 randomly selected animals will provide a good indication of flock / herd parasite burdens. Depending on the results, a decision can be made whether the animals require drenching or you can determine drenching effectiveness.

*Discuss with your veterinarian when to collect samples for post-drench effectiveness testing.*

## Sampling instructions:

1. Obtain faecal egg count kits from your local veterinarian.
2. Run the animals into a corner of the paddock and hold them there for 5-10 minutes. Let them quietly move away and then collect 10 fresh faeces samples off the ground.
3. Collected approximately 5g (at least 3 teaspoons) of faeces per sample (try to avoid contaminating sample with soil or pasture).
4. Ensure the pottles are tightly closed so they do not leak and are clear from faecal matter on the outside.
5. Complete the submission form in full.
6. Place the sample pottles back in the plastic bag provided, then into the box, along with the submission form. Securely tape the lid of the box closed.
7. Return the samples to your local veterinarian for sending to the laboratory.

*Note: For drench resistance testing, consult your veterinarian for advice.*

## Results:

Results will be sent to your veterinarian as soon as they are available. Your veterinarian will then contact you regarding the interpretation of the test results and to discuss any further action required.