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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

405 S. 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sparks Nevada 89431  
Telephone (775) 353-3600 Fax (775) 353-3661  
Website: <http://www.agri.nv.gov>

### Shipping instructions for Blood samples for TB/Gamma-Interferon testing Cold Season Update

1. As soon as CFT injections are made call the ADFSL (775)-353-3718 and give the ranch name, date of arrival and number of samples that will be delivered to the lab. This is important because a sufficient number of lab personnel need to be available to set up the samples once they arrive.
2. At the time CFT's are read, collect blood from a clean venipuncture in a heparinized (green top) blood tube. Only green-topped tubes (heparinized) can be used since other anti-coagulant interfere with the test. **One (1) full tube (6ml) is necessary for testing to be completed.**
3. Label the tubes with the sequence number of the CFT chart and the last four digits of the official animal ID (USDA 9-digit) alpha-numeric number or American ID number).
4. **Collected blood must be kept between 62 and 82 degrees Fahrenheit until it arrives at the lab. Use ice packs or thawed ice packs warmed in hot water, depending on environmental conditions, to maintain temperature during storing and transport.**
  - a. **During the winter months blood should only be shipped in sufficiently large Styrofoam containers that allow addition of at least 3 to 4 heated packs. Please heat the packs to 37°C (99°F) and place them into the shipping container.**
5. Place filled vials in either the Styrofoam rack(s) the tubes came in or in a Brucellosis mailer(s) (4x10, 40 tube boxes).
6. Place the tubes, racked by Ranch, in the containers. Use one shipping container per Ranch.
7. **Place cushioned material over the tubes ('peanuts' or paper product) around the samples to protect the samples and insulate them from direct contact with cold or warmed packs.**
  - a. **Insulating the blood tubes from the temperature packs (hot or cold) is vitally important! The heated packs provide adequate ambient temperature in the box during shipping and are not used for direct temperature transfer at any time!**  
**DO NOT USE HANDWARMERS!**
8. Place ice or warmed packs (depending on environmental temperature) on top of cushioning material.
9. Place additional protective cushioning material on top of the cold or warm packs to fill the container completely and reduce sample movement (decrease risk of tube breakage) during transport.
10. Place legible sample submission form(s) on top (including the herd owner's name and address and total number of samples. Please note the time at which the sampling was completed.
11. Tape the box shut securely and label the outside of the box with the following delivery address:

Animal Disease and Food Safety Laboratory  
405 S. 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sparks, NV 89431
12. Hand-delivered samples can be dropped off at the front desk of the ADFSL between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Samples must arrive at the lab by 12:00 pm (at the latest) the day after they were collected (samples must be processed within 24 hours of being taken).