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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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November 2011

Shipping and submission instructions for official *Tritrichomonas fetus* testing

In-Pouch tests (Microscopy): Recommended for annual herd test, no known infection or exposure to infected animals (\$5/pouch):

1. Only Submissions with completed paperwork will be accepted for official testing.
2. Clearly label the pouches. Identify the sample on the form by listing both the 'Trich' tag and the official animal ID number (USDA 9-digit). Official animal ID is not mandatory at this time but highly recommended due to significantly higher tag retention.
3. Collected samples must be kept between 65 and 90 degrees Fahrenheit at all times until they arrive at the lab. **Temperature of specimens is checked on arrival! Temperatures outside the specified 65 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit range will not be accepted for official testing.**
Use ice packs or thawed ice packs warmed in hot water, depending on environmental conditions, to maintain temperature during storage and transport. **DO NOT USE HANDWARMERS!**
4. Place cushioned material around the pouches ('peanuts' or paper product) to protect them and insulate them from direct contact with cold or warmed packs.
5. Place ice or warmed packs (depending on environmental temperature) on top of cushioning material.
6. Place additional protective cushioning material on top of the cold or warm packs to fill the container completely.
7. Place legible sample submission form(s) on top. Please note the time at which the sampling was completed (together with date collected).
8. Tape the box shut securely and label the outside of the box with the following delivery address:

Animal Disease and Food Safety Laboratory (Tel. 775-353-3718)
405 S 21st Street
Sparks NV 89431

9. 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 within 48 hours of being taken.**
10. Unless specified on the form a sample which is positive on microscopy will automatically be confirmed by PCR and \$12.00/PCR will be charged to the submitter account.

Real-time PCR: Recommended for herds under hold order, known infection or contact to infected herds. Please follow all instructions concerning labeling and paperwork.

1. Maintain samples at 65 to 90 ° F in the field. Transfer to incubator and incubate at 35 to 37°C for 24 hours.
2. Freeze samples after 24 hours and ship frozen on ice packs to the laboratory. Samples that arrive at the lab at temperatures > 42°F cannot be used for official testing.
3. Indicate on the form when samples were taken, incubated and frozen, respectively.
4. Clearly state on the submission form that RT-PCR testing is requested (\$25/sample).

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5. Results will be reported within 2 to 3 working days after receipt of specimen. If you require testing of more than 50 specimens per submission please inform the lab one week in advance to avoid delays.

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