

Campylobacter IgA ELISA sample collection (cows and heifers)

Bovine Venereal Campylobacteriosis (BVC) is caused by *Campylobacter fetus* ssp. *venerealis*. The disease is characterised by infertility and embryonic death, with abortion only occurring in a small percentage of cows. An ELISA test detecting IgA antibodies in vaginal mucus is available through **Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute** and useful for the investigation of infertility and/or abortion.

PURPOSE

This test is offered as a herd test (minimum of 10 animals sampled) in cases of infertility in herds where BVC infection is suspected.

MATERIALS REQUIRED

1.5 ml sterile PBS (must be ordered at least 2 weeks in advance of testing)

Sterile swabs (15 cm or longer)

SELECTING ANIMALS FOR TESTING

In herds where abortion and infertility exists, cows that have either aborted or returned to service are sampled.

Note: The test cannot be performed on bulls.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS TO BE TESTED

A representative sample of at least ten should be collected from cows or heifers; sampling can be done at the same time as pregnancy testing reveals infertility.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE - COLLECTION OF VAGINAL MUCUS BY SWAB

Following cleaning of the perineum, the swab is introduced into the vagina as cranially as possible. The swab should be pressed against the vaginal wall and turned a few times to ensure full saturation.

Avoid urine contamination of the swab. Please note - only slight faecal contamination of the swab is acceptable.

Following sampling, the mucus from the swab is then transferred to the PBS by thoroughly rinsing the cotton head of the swab, and breaking the swab into the PBS container, and firmly screwing the lid back on.

TRANSPORTING SAMPLES

Samples should be chilled or refrigerated immediately, and packed in an esky with ice for transportation.

SUBMITTING SAMPLES

Submit samples to:

Animal Health Laboratory

NRE Tas

165 Westbury Road

Prospect TAS 7250

P: 03 6777 2111

E: specimenreception@nre.tas.gov.au

All samples will be forwarded to the Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute, DPI, Menangle NSW.

For any further queries, please contact the duty pathologist.

For more information about the laboratory visit the AHL website

www.nre.tas.gov.au/AHLabs