

Faecal Worm Egg Count Guide

Faecal worm egg counts (WEC) are used to monitor the worm burden in livestock by counting the number of eggs of various helminths and coccidia species. Results are presented as 'eggs per gram' (epg) or 'oocysts per gram' (opg), which indicates the number of adult worms in the gut of the animal(s). However, egg output is not perfectly correlated to the actual worm burden.

WECs provide a basis for when the treatment is indicated and can also be used to test for wormer resistance in the worm population and give an indication about the contamination of the pasture.

Results should always be interpreted alongside clinical signs. Animals can be infected with worms that are not yet adult and are not shedding eggs. In this instance the animal can have signs of disease but may not yet have a high WEC. Your vet will work with you to interpret your WEC and guide decision making on the best course of action.

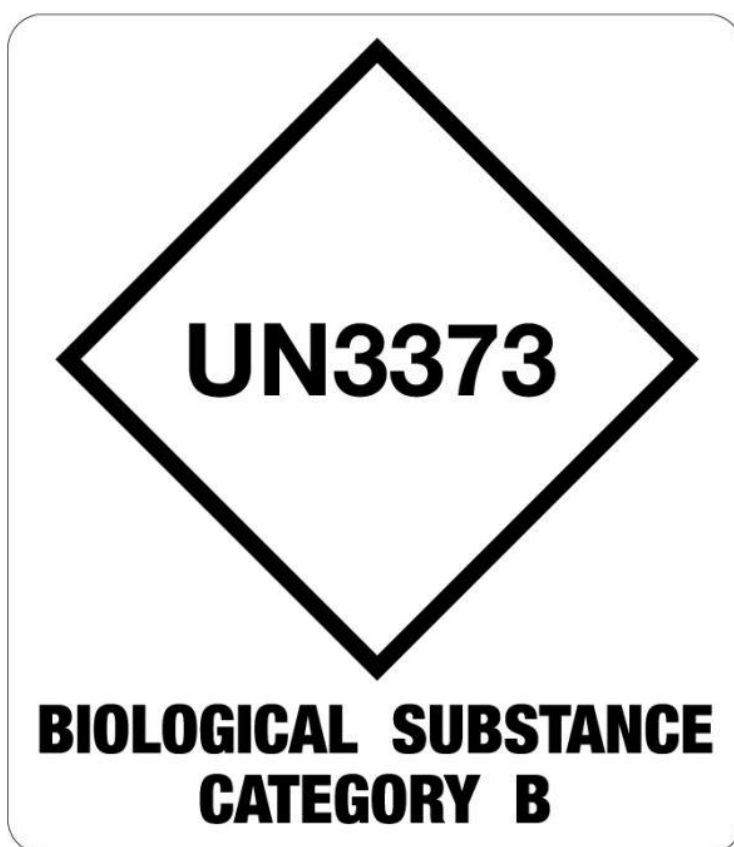
SAMPLING:

Faecal samples should be collected from fresh faeces, ideally less than 1 hour old.

10 samples (in individual pots) from a large group of animals is required for a pooled group sample (please see note below regarding pooled samples). If you have fewer than 10 animals please attempt to collect individual samples from the whole group. 7g (a heaped teaspoon) of faeces per individual sample is perfectly adequate for a WEC.

JANE'S WEC LAB:

- If submitting to Jane testing, please post samples directly to
WEC Lab, Long Meadow, Shurlock Row, Berkshire RG10 0PL
 - Please notify the office to expect samples via info@thelivestockclinic.co.uk
 - **Postage requirements for biological substances (Category B) can be found on the post website at <https://www.postoffice.co.uk/mail/what-can-i-send>. Please download print a Category B label, provided on the next page, to attach to your parcel.**
 - Post the same day to prevent eggs hatching and inaccurate results
 - Download a submission form from our website (www.thelivestockclinic.co.uk) and fill out as fully as possible before enclosing with your samples
 - Please make sure you have specified individual or pooled testing
 - If you are unsure, please contact the office to discuss your submission



EXTERNAL TESTING:

- If submitting samples to be sent away to our external laboratory, please use the Drop Box at either our Guildford or Wisborough Green sites (addresses below). Note that ALL samples dropped at Wisborough Green will be sent to the external laboratory (unless by prior arrangement)
 - Please notify the office to expect samples via info@thelivestockclinic.co.uk
 - Please make sure samples are submitted in **labelled 60ml specimen pots** (available at both sites) – *office staff are not able to transfer faecal samples into pots on your behalf and the lab will not accept any other containers*
 - Download a submission form from our website (www.thelivestockclinic.co.uk) and fill out as fully as possible, in order for the supervising vet to submit the samples correctly. Spare forms will also be available in the Drop Box
 - If you are unsure, please contact the office to discuss your submission
 - Enclose your form and samples in a courier bag and place in the drop box
 - The cut off for the same-day submission is **16.30 Monday – Friday**



PLEASE NOTE:

The laboratory we use for faecal worm egg counts has introduced a new pooling charge for samples submitted for combined analysis. This fee is higher than an individual WEC and is applied per pooled group – it covers the cost of lab time, consumables, and quality control procedure to produce a more accurate and representative count. To bypass the pooling fee, simply combine your samples into one container before dropping them off. Once received, the lab will homogenise and thoroughly mix the pooled sample to ensure accurate and consistent results.

Wisborough Green Drop Off

The Old Stables
Strood Green
Wisborough Green
Billingshurst
RH14 0HJ
W3W: outpost.defrost.erupt

Guildford Drop Off

58 Frog Grove Lane
Wood Street Village

Guildford
GU3 3HA
W3W: mailer.encloses.emeralds