



Faecal Egg Count Guide

Faecal egg counts (FEC) 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) in faeces which indicates the number of adult worms in the gut of the sheep. However egg output is not perfectly correlated to the actual worm burden.

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

Results should always be interpreted alongside clinical signs and problems. Animals can be infected with worms that are not yet adult and are not shedding eggs, so this will not be demonstrated on the faecal worm egg count results.

Sampling:

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

Individual samples from 10% of a large group is an ideal or 10 individual samples.

Samples should be stored in pots or airtight bags and refrigerated. Post the same day to prevent eggs hatching and inaccurate results.

Print and fill out the lab form

If a composite (mixed WEC) is requested then these samples will then be accurately pooled together at the lab.

Please request individual testing if you would like individual WECs run