

Newbridge Scientific

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Effective Date: 01/08/2023

Title: Boot Sampling - Salmonella

Background: Every effort has been made to ensure that the flocks you are supplied with are free from salmonella infection. The routine testing that you undertake is to ensure that your flock remains free from salmonella infection.

Regular monitoring for the presence of Salmonella in the bird environment is necessary because most of the strains of Salmonella do not cause clinical disease in birds. The method described here is by taking boot swab samples. The other commonly used method is dust sampling.

Samples for Salmonella monitoring are collected every three weeks (Lion code). Two samples are also collected by APHA at the beginning and end of the flock. These two samples are tested by APHA and are effective checks on our methods.

Aim:

To use sampling methods that will detect the presence of salmonella in our flocks.

To use sampling methods that minimise the risk of cross-contamination of the samples from outside of the flock environment.

To collect bulk samples of faeces from the flock.

Sampling kit for one flock in one house

1. One pair of disposable gloves
2. 2 thick, clear, self-seal plastic bags.
3. 10 blue mob caps to use as boot swabs.
4. One pair of clear plastic over boots.
5. One envelope. **Note:** all samples from each house can be submitted in this.
6. One submission form
7. One address label.

Method:

Where possible, plan for these samples to be collected on a Monday morning and sent to the laboratory that afternoon.

Prepare a clean work surface in either the office or canteen area.

1. You do not need a lot of water in each bag, just enough to moisten the boot swabs. This will be about an inch in the bottom of the bag. Boil sufficient water in the kettle and let it cool down. Water from the hot or cold tap in the canteen can also be used. **DO NOT** use water from the taps that may be grossly contaminated by poultry dust.
2. Wash and sanitise hands.
3. Put on disposable gloves to prepare your sample bags. **Note:** use a clean pair for each house.
4. Take one plastic bag and put 5 mob caps that will be used as boot swabs, in it. These caps are supplied as flat, compressed, corrugated strips. Repeat for the second bag.
5. Whilst the water is still warm but not hot enough to scald, pour an inch of water into the bottom of each plastic bag. **BE CAREFUL** not to burn yourself.
6. Moistened the mob caps by squeezing them in the water. Tip out the excess water. **Note:** If you make the mob caps too wet, they will tear when you pull them apart to put on your boots.
7. The swabs are now ready to be used.
8. Take two plastic bags containing 5 mob caps and one pair of plastic over boots to sample each house.



9. At the appropriate house, place one plastic over boot on the boots used in the poultry house.
10. Inside the house, unfold the mob caps and place 5 mob caps on each boot.
11. Take 50 paces, treading in faeces as seen, remove one boot from each foot and place it in one plastic bag. Repeat this process over the accessible floor space.
12. When one plastic bag contains 5 boot swabs, start using the second plastic bag. When you have completed the sampling, you will have two plastic bags with 5 boot swabs in per house. Label the bag with the farm name, House number and sampling date.
13. Repeat steps 2 to 13 for each house.
14. Fill in the submission form, ensuring the Business name, farm name, House number and sampling date, birds age, breed of bird **and test required**, are legible.
15. Enclose the samples in an envelope and attach a per-paid label – ideally, sending to the Lab the day of sampling.
16. If the samples cannot be posted the same day, put the envelope containing the samples in a clean plastic container, in the fridge. **DO NOT** put them in a fridge that is used to store food or drink for human consumption.
17. The samples must arrive at the laboratory within 72 hours if they are to be suitable for testing. If they arrive after this time, they will have to be taken again.
18. Record the date sampled and initial the Veterinary Health Plan.
19. The test takes around 4 days to complete from the time of receipt at the laboratory. You should expect to have the results emailed to you at the beginning of the next week.
20. Record the report number on the Veterinary Health Plan.

Sampling guide requirements:

Breeders	2 x 5 Boot swabs
Flat Deck Layers	2 x 2 Boot swabs
Multi – tiered Layers	2 x 1 Boot swabs + 2 x 1 Hand swabs
Broilers	2 x 2 Boot swabs
Turkeys	2 x 2 Boot swabs
Turkey Breeders	2 x 5 Boot swabs

For all samples:

Plan for samples to arrive on a weekday.

Use appropriate sample numbers and containers – consult the Laboratory or supervising vet if in any doubt.

Package in a secure leakproof manner and submit on the day of sampling. If not possible, please keep samples refrigerated (not frozen)

Complete the submission form and place separately to the samples.