Newbridge Scientific

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Effective Date: 01/08/2023

Title: Procedure for Sample Collection: Drinking water for microbial examination

Objective: To ensure that samples are collected in a standard way to determine the microbiological standard of drinking water.

Materials required: Grip-seal sample bag, water pots, disposable gloves.

Method:

1. Wash hands
2. Put on disposable gloves.
3. Carry a suitable sanitiser (e.g., alcohol wipes) to sanitise tops/nipples. If sampling from bell drinkers, have one sterile, disposable syringe for each sample.
4. Ensure that you have the required number of sample pots and identify them with the farm name, house number and date of sampling.
5. At each sample location, thoroughly cleanse the nipple with the alcohol wipes (not applicable for bell drinkers)
6. Activate the water flow for 30 seconds from the tap or nipples, fill the sample container to **25ml**. If sampling from the bell drinkers, collect the sample from just under the water surface, avoiding any sediment.
7. Complete the submission form ensuring to include a business name, farm name, shed number, date of sampling **and test required**. Please ensure to tick the type of test required.
8. Chill the samples and dispatch to the laboratory on the day of collection.
9. The samples should be fastened inside sealed bags and placed inside a larger sealed bag. The submission form should be placed in a separate bag to avoid any damage from condensing moisture.

Please note – please take samples representative of flock consumption. If sampling nipple lines, a single sample may be taken 2/3rds of the way along.

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.