

BOVINE INFERTILITY - SAMPLE COLLECTION – ELISA [*CAMPYLOBACTER FETUS* SUBSP *VENEREALIS*]

Bovine Venereal Campylobacteriosis (BVC) is caused by *Campylobacter fetus* subsp *veneralis* and is characterised by infertility and early embryonic death. Abortion occurs in a small percentage of infected cows.

An ELISA detecting IgA antibodies in the vaginal mucus was developed to diagnose the disease. The test is a useful aid for abortion and/or infertility investigations.

Samples from Abortions

Animals which aborted can be sampled from 1 week to 3 months following abortion.

Samples from Infertility

Offered as a herd test in cases of infertility in herds where BVC infection is suspected. Samples should be collected from **10% of infertile heifers or cows (at least 10 individuals)**. Sampling should be done at the same time when pregnancy testing reveals infertility.

In herds where abortion occurs and infertility exists, samples can be collected from both aborting and infertile groups.

Necessary Equipment

1. 4.5ml Phosphate buffered saline containing 0.05% Tween 20 (PBST).
2. Sterile swab.

Sampling Procedure

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.

Only slight faecal contamination of the swab is acceptable. Following sampling, the cotton head of the swab should be cut and placed in PBST, chilled and sent to the laboratory with a completed Specimen Advice Sheet.

Storage & Transport

If the PBST transport media arrive frozen they may continue to be stored at -20°C, otherwise PBST vials should be kept between 2 to 8°C. Frozen media can be stored for use up until the expiry date, while refrigerated media may be stored for up to 1 month before use (not exceeding the expiry date). Do not freeze specimens post sampling, but keep chilled at 4°C, including during transit. Please send specimens to the laboratory as soon as practical, however, a delay of up to one week is acceptable.

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