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## How to Conduct a FECRT

For best results, sample animals from the same age and management group. The ideal is cattle 6 months to 2 years of age:

- Cowcalf: Sample from pastured cattle.
- Stocker/feedlot/replacement heifers: Test and treat incoming cattle on arrival to check incoming parasite population. Test resident cattle after sufficient grazing time (at least 2 months).
- Dairy: Sample from replacement heifers. Conduct the field test during optimal parasite transmission on your pasture. Twenty random animals within a defined group will provide a statistically adequate sample to represent the population's average egg shedding.
- 20 random, individual fecal samples taken at treatment day (identified as pre-treatment group).
- 20 random, individual fecal samples taken 14 days post treatment (identified as post-treatment group).

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## Steps for gathering samples:

As directed by cattle veterinarian.

- Collect rectal or observed freshly dropped sample.
  - Use a re-sealable sandwich-size bag for each sample.
  - Invert bag and collect golf ball-size sample.
  - Re-invert bag, squeeze air out and seal (check seal).
  - Identify sample by date collected and animal group with permanent marker on the bag.
- Put individual samples from each group in larger resealable bag and identify by date and animal group, if testing more than one group. Keep sample groups separated.
- Individual samples only – do not mix or pool samples from different animals.
- Refrigerate overnight to ensure each sample is sufficiently cooled. Do not freeze.
- Work with your local veterinarian or Merck Animal Health sales representative to determine who will conduct FECRT test.
- Pre-and post-treatment samples need to be sent to the same lab.
- Ensure lab uses Modified Wisconsin sugar float or Double Wisconsin sugar float procedure.

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Once results come in, use the following formula to calculate the efficacy of your dewormer:

$$\frac{((\text{Pre-treatment average worm egg count} - \text{Post-treatment average}) / \text{Pre-treatment count}) \times 100 = \text{Efficacy}}$$

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## WHAT'S YOUR COUNT?

If the efficacy of the anthelmintic falls below 90 percent after completing the proper testing protocol:

1. Consider additional diagnostic investigation (discuss with your veterinarian).
2. Use an alternate treatment.
3. Use a different class of anthelmintic or combination of 2 compounds of different class:
  - Benzimidazoles: albendazole, fenbendazole, oxfendazole.
  - Endectocides: doramectin, eprinomectin, ivermectin, moxidectin.
  - Imidazoles: levamisole, morantel tartrate.
4. Repeat screening test under new treatment.