



Salmonella sampling for caravan farms using sponge swabs or sponge sticks

Purpose/Scope: This SOP provides a methodology for conducting *Salmonella* sampling in a mobile or caravan egg farm environment

FREQUENCY
Every 12 to 15 weeks

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 3M sponge swabs or sponge sticks
 - Supplied by laboratory or,
 - Purchased from 3M
- Disposable latex gloves
- Sample transport liquid (peptone water)
- ^Whirl-Pak® bags or screw top plastic jar
- Permanent marker
- Laboratory sample submission form
- Plastic post satchel for transporting swab to laboratory
- Plastic container for swabbed samples

[^] www.whirl-pak.com/whirl-pak-bags-general-information

PROCEDURE

Step 1 Get prepared

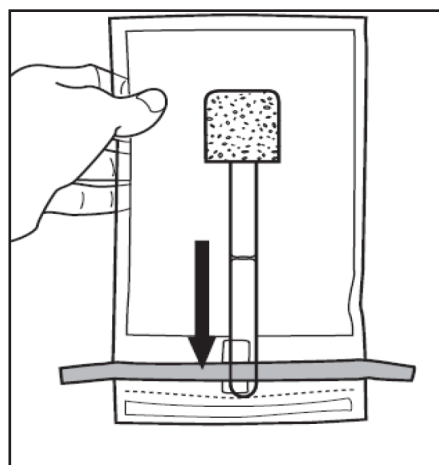
- 1 Notify the laboratory 24 hours in advance of sending the swab samples.
- 2 Obtain a sample submission form from the laboratory.
- 3 Prepare **two (2) swabs** per shed.

Step 2 Swab the shed

Sponge stick method

- 1 Wash your hands.
- 2 Put on a pair of disposable latex gloves.
- 3 Shake stick to end of bag (Figure 1).

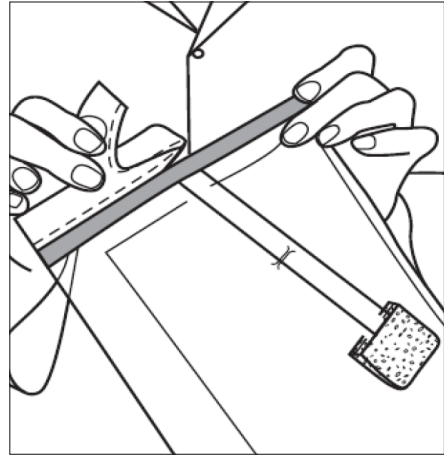
Figure 1. Shake the stick



PROCEDURE

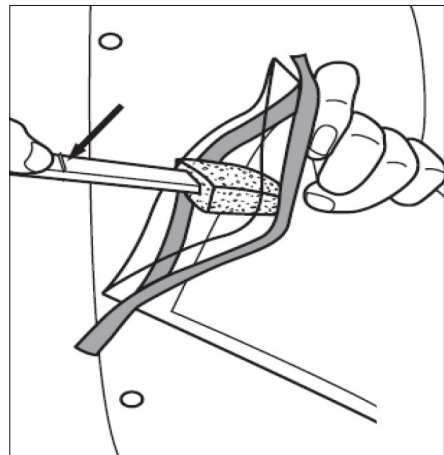
- 4 Tear bag open. Add peptone water to dry sponge, as per directions or so that sponge is moistened (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Tear open the bag



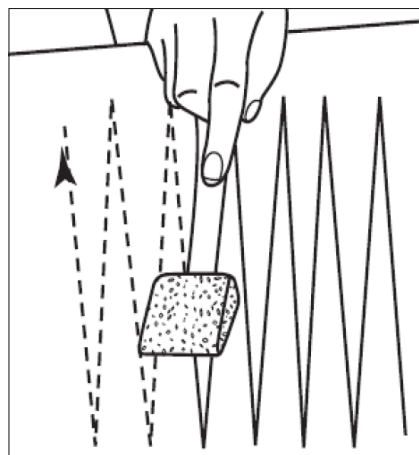
- 5 Squeeze bag to fully open. Grasp the stick above the thumb-stop line to remove the sponge from the bag (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Squeeze to open bag and grab the stick



- 6 Swab all areas that manure collects on in a zig-zag pattern (red arrow) (Figure 4).

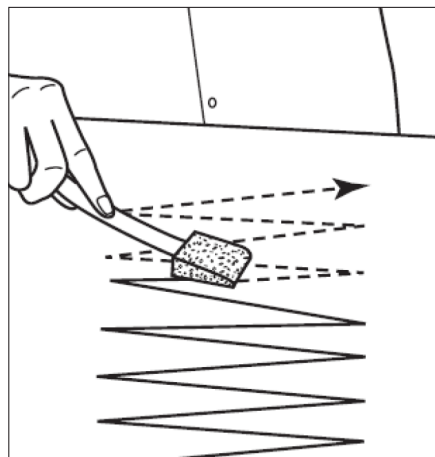
Figure 4. Swab the manure area



PROCEDURE

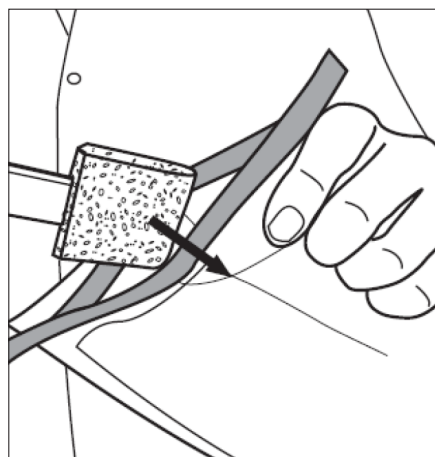
- 7 Turn sponge over and swab the same area in the opposite direction (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Turn over the swab and swab the same area in opposite direction



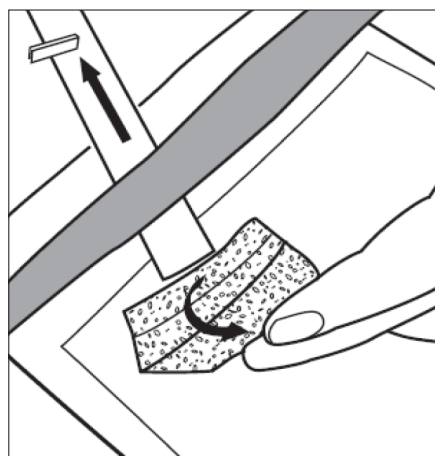
- 8 Carefully place sponge into bag up to the thumb-stop (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Place sponge into bag



- 9 Do not touch the sponge directly with your hands, hold sponge in place inside bag. Bend stick to break. Allow sponge to drop into bag. Discard stick (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Drop sponge into the bag and throw the stick away



PROCEDURE

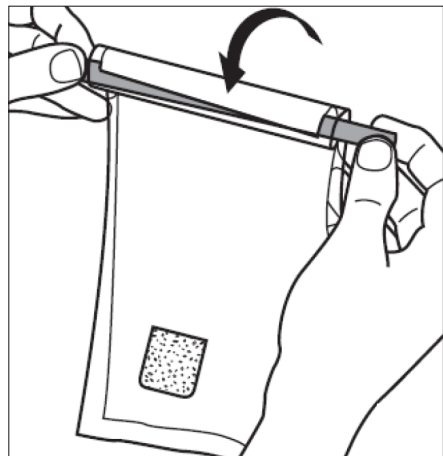
- 10 Dispose of gloves (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Throw gloves away



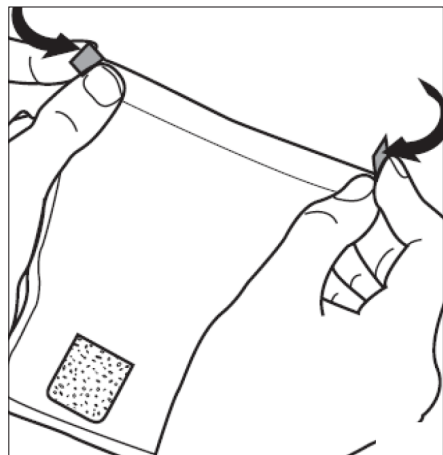
- 11 Fold bag to close (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Fold to close bag



- 12 To seal the bag, fold the ends of the wires inward (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Fold the wires



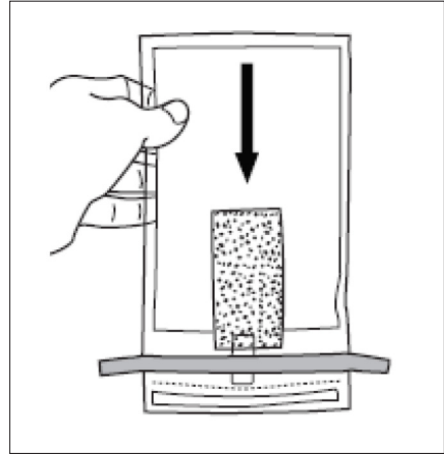
- 13 Swab the other side of the shed with a new swab following procedure 2 to 12.

PROCEDURE

Sponge swab method

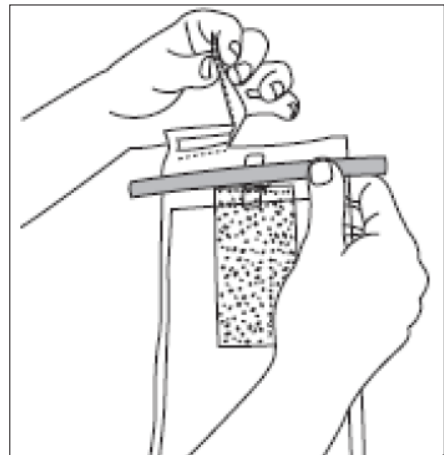
- 1 Wash your hands.
- 2 Shake sponge to the top of the bag (Figure 11).

Figure 11. Shake the bag to move the sponge



- 3 Tear open the bag (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Tear open bag



- 4 Gently push sponge so it pokes out of the top of the bag (Figure 13).

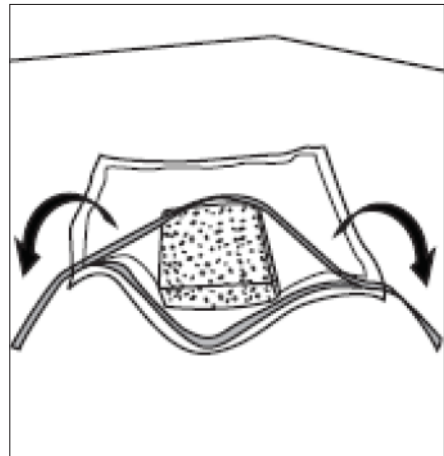
Figure 13. Push sponge out from bag



PROCEDURE

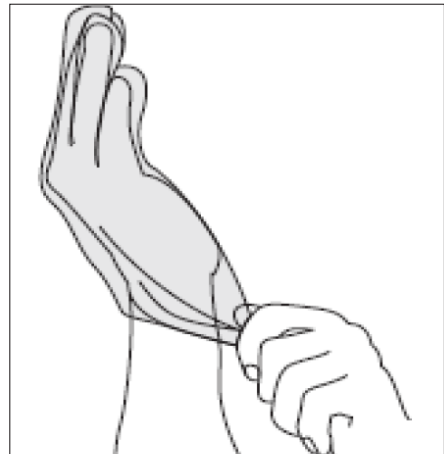
- 5 Bend the wires to fully open the bag (Figure 14).

Figure 14. Bend the wires to open bag



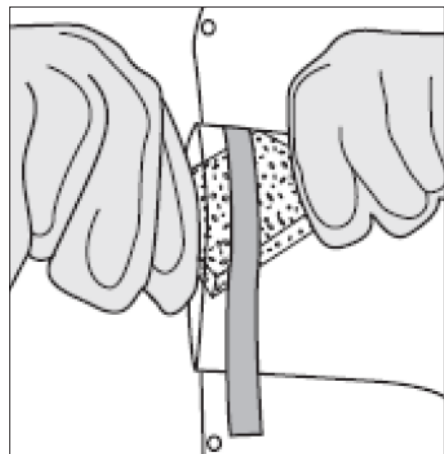
- 6 Put on disposable gloves, carefully to avoid tearing (Figure 15).

Figure 15. Put on gloves



- 7 Carefully remove sponge. Do not touch the inside of the bag (Figure 16).

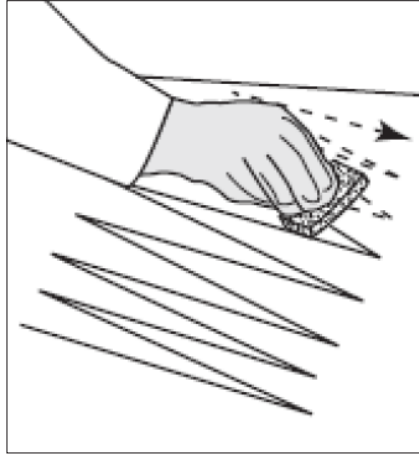
Figure 16. Remove sponge from bag



PROCEDURE

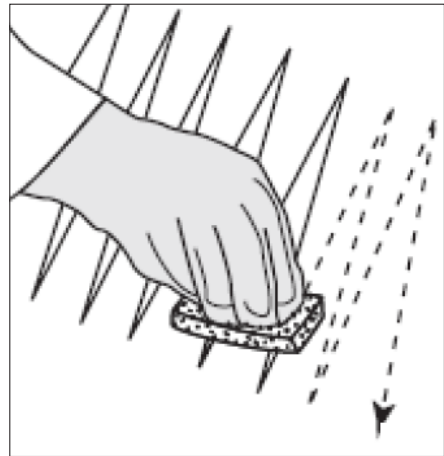
- 8 Swab all areas that manure collects on in a zig-zag pattern (red arrow) (Figure 17).

Figure 17. Swab the manure area



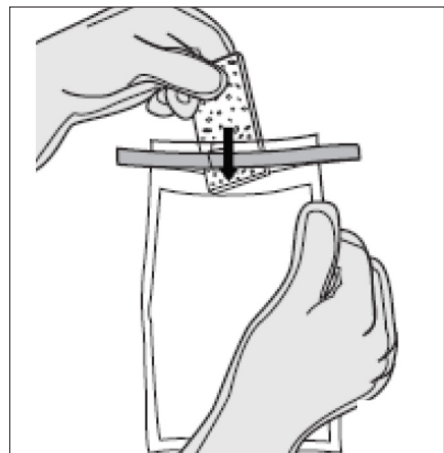
- 9 Turn sponge over and swab the same sampled surface in the opposite direction (Figure 18).

Figure 18. Turn over the swab and swab the same area in opposite direction



- 10 With gloves still on return the sponge to the bag carefully (Figure 19).

Figure 19. Put sponge back into bag



PROCEDURE

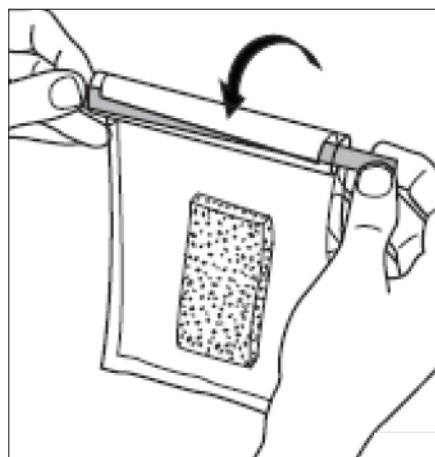
- 11 Remove and dispose of gloves (Figure 20).

Figure 20. Throw gloves away



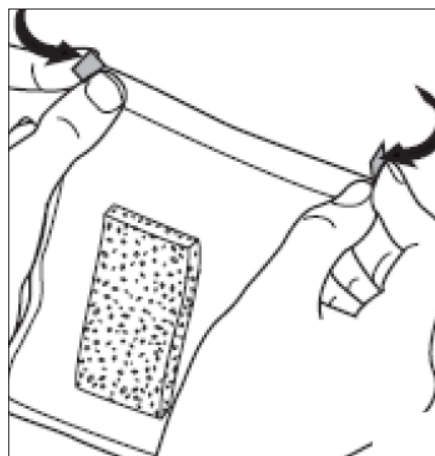
- 12 Fold bag to close (Figure 21).

Figure 21. Fold to close bag



- 13 To seal the bag, fold the wires inwards (Figure 22).

Figure 22. Fold the wires



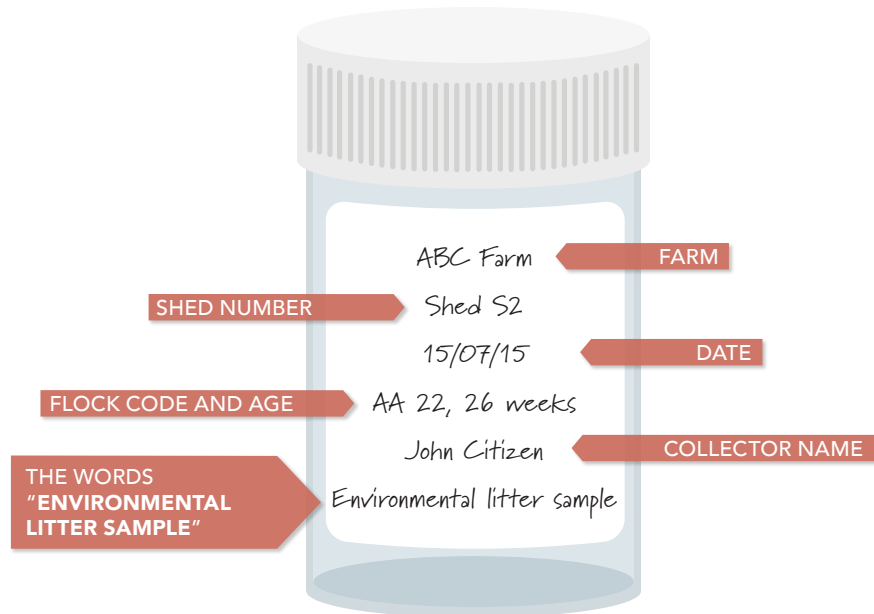
PROCEDURE

Step 3

Packaging the samples

- 1 Each sample should be placed in it's own Whirl-Pak® bag or screw top plastic jar. Clearly label each bag or jar with permanent marker.
- 2 Include information as per Example 1.

Example 1. Information to include on the Whirl-Pak® bag or screw top plastic jar



Step 4

Submit the samples

- 1 Pack the swabs that are in the bags (Figure 23A) securely into a plastic container (Figure 23B) and put the container into a plastic post satchel (Figure 23C).

Figure 23 (23A, B, C). Pack swab samples



23B

<https://ie.vwr.com/store/product/17962031/sample-container-with-screw-cap-sterilin#gallery-1>

23C

<https://auspost.com.au/shop/product/flat-rate-small-satchel-10-pack-059049131?fm=recommendations:shop:1>

PROCEDURE

- 2 Put the completed sample submission form into the same plastic post satchel as the swabs.
 - 3 Post the samples to the diagnostic laboratory.
 - 4 If the swabs cannot be posted on the same day, store the swabs in the fridge (between 4 and 8°C) until ready to be posted. Conduct procedures 1 to 4 as soon as possible.
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Swabs must not be frozen.

REFERENCE

3M Hydrated Sponge Product Instructions, Issue Date 2012-10
3M Sponge Stick Product Instructions, Issue Date 2013-03