

Guidance Notes for Bovine Fallen Stock Sampling Sites

This document contains useful information and reminders for cattle fallen stock brainstem samplers

It is meant to be helpful – so please contact me if you have any suggestions for addition.

All forms and documents mentioned or attached in the appendices will be either sent to you or be available on the Animal Health website.

Content

Overview of project

Submission of carcase to sampling site

Sampling

- brainstem
- ear

Consumable items

- packaging
- spoons
- sample pots
- forceps
- ear bags
- barcode labels
- leg tags

Packing samples

Despatch of samples

Payment for sampling

Further information

Overview of Fallen Stock Testing

The UK has been testing fallen stock since 2001.

From January 2009 all cattle older than 48 months which die on farm must have their brainstem sampled and tested for BSE.

All cattle fallen stock samples are tested at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency at Newcastle. The test used to screen samples is the BioRad TeSeE ELISA. The test has a three day turn around from the day of receipt at the laboratory.

Following the age change in January we are estimating that 170,000 animals will be tested in 2009 under this scheme.

Animal Health will approve and monitor all sampling sites.

MLC will cease "supervising" the sampling process at existing sampling sites on or before the 31st March 2009.

AHVLA will provide the following:

- a testing service
- sampling training – retraining as appropriate to approved fallen stock sampling sites and over 48 month abattoirs
- technical advice – age queries, unrecoverable carcase reports
- supply of necessary consumable items to approved fallen stock sampling sites
- free sample postal or courier service to the testing laboratory
- monitor sample conditions

Submission of carcase for sampling

Cattle owners should organise the collection and disposal of all over 48 month animals. Owners are responsible for payment of this service.

Age enquiries should be directed to the AHVLA Newcastle helpline service.

If there is any doubt whether to sample and test – the general rule is “if in doubt – send for testing” This way animals that should be tested will not be missed. It has been agreed that all samples taken in good faith will be paid for.

Any animal that is deemed by the owner to be unrecoverable must be reported to the AHVLA enquiry line. Data on unrecoverable animals will be monitored by Animal Health. Any inaccurate reporting will be acted on.

Helpline – age enquiries and unrecoverable reports: 08456011367

Submission Form

Instead of an FSCA1 form (currently used) the sampling site will no be using the new FSCA2 fallen stock submission form - this should have all the animal details on - plus plant details etc. The form can be pre populated (using the downloadable version) – with sampling site etc – to reduce the number of boxes to complete for each carcase.

See appendix 1

One of the paired barcodes is placed onto the form in the box on the bottom right. The other pair is stuck to the sample pot.

The cattle movement card should be attached to the front of the form. This allows easier booking in of the two barcodes at the testing laboratory.

Sampling

Sampling training will be provided by AHVLA on request by Animal Health.

Cascade training by an approved sampler is allowed.

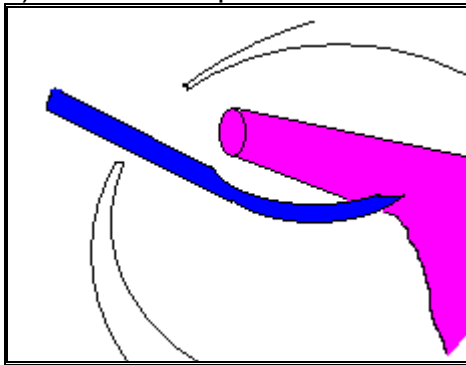
All training (AHVLA or cascade) must be recorded on appropriate training record forms. To provide evidence of approved samplers. Animal Health expect to see documented evidence of training.

See appendix 2

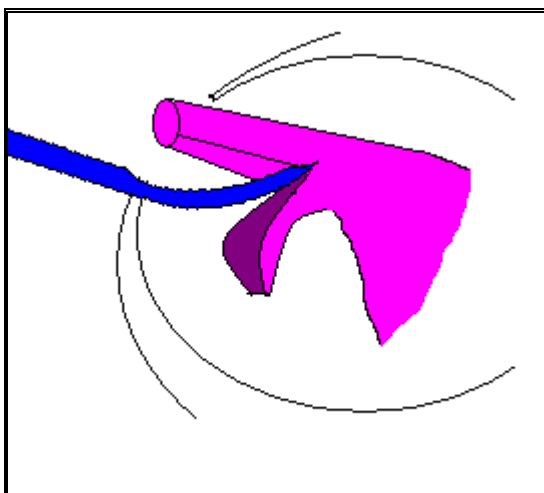
Most damage is caused to the sample by not controlling the spinal cord end of the brainstem when entering the spoon (1) or entering the spoon at too shallow an angle (2).

See diagrams below and Appendix 7

1) The brain is pushed into the cavity and the resulting sample is cut too short



2) The spoon is at too shallow an angle – it slices off a piece of the brainstem – this piece often contains the target site for testing



One of the barcode pairs is attached to a box on the form the other onto the pot

Autolysed (rotten) samples

All brain samples can be tested despite how autolysed they are. If there is no structure to the brain that can be recognised, please fill the pot about a third to half full with the brain material.

Ear sampling

Animal Health will require a piece of ear to be removed (a “V” shaped notch of skin enclosing the ear tag), and placed in a clean plastic bag.

See diagram below

All individual ear samples in bags from the same days collection should be then bagged together in another clean bag – this should be labelled with the days date before being stored in a fridge or freezer.

The samples must be retained on site for one week after the matching brain sample has been sent for testing.

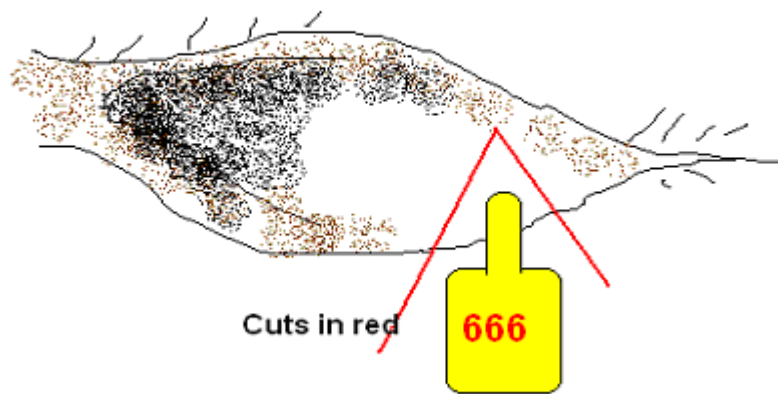
Why? Animal Health will be taking random ear samples on their visits to site – these will be sent for DNA analysis to ensure that the site is placing the correct brain into the correctly labelled pot.

Also, the corresponding ear sample will be requested for any brain sample that tests positive. On receipt of this instruction – the site will be requested to retain ALL ear samples until notified by Animal Health.

If for any reason ear tags are missing any identifying information must be written down and placed in a separate clean bag with the ear tag. All untagged animals must be sampled unless there is evidence to suggest that the animal is clearly under 48 months of age.

If there is any miss match of brain against ear tag – further action will be taken

Cows Ear



Consumable items

Please do not over order consumable items.

Ordering

All ordering must be linked to the throughput of the site. We have given some guidance on the back of the order form which allows for approximately a 3 month order.

See appendix 3 & 4

All orders will now be sent to AHVLA Newcastle.

AHVLA will adjust all orders as they feel appropriate on the basis of known throughput of the site and the known levels of consumables previously ordered.

Forms

There will be an electronic version of the sample form available also for use – if this version is used sites must ensure that copies are retained

Packaging

There will eventually be three packaging sorts available

- Small Bio bottles (up to 2 samples)
- Medium Bio boxes (up to 6 samples)
- Large Bio boxes (up to 40 samples)

Spoons

Disposable plastic spoons must be used for all fallen stock. Metal spoons, air or water extraction methods can not be used.

Spoons should break if used correctly – please apply minimal pressure. Although AHVLA will normally supply blue spoons to sites, others can be supplied from time to time.

Pots

A common cause of complaints from the testing laboratory is if the tops of pots have not been screwed on correctly. This can lead to leakage during transit – making the packaging difficult to handle: contaminated packaging has to be sent for specialist burning rather than being recycled.

Forceps

A pair of forceps is provided for each head – as with spoons these must be treated as clinical waste.

Ear sample bags

AHVLA will supply a polythene bag for storage of individual ear samples. These must be stored together as per days collection.

Barcode labels

Each site will be supplied with paired rolls of barcodes – each label has a prefix that relates specifically to each site – the following numbers will be sequential. One label is attached to the pot whilst its partner is attached to the submission form. Barcodes identify your site for payment purposes

Leg Tags

Leg tags are attached on farm to all carcasses over 48 months. In the event of there being a loss of ear tags – this would be recorded along with farm details on the ear sample bag.

Despatch of samples

AHVLA will be responsible for the costs of transport of samples. This will be either by courier, Royal Mail or drop off at local AHVLA Regional Lab.

The sampling site is responsible for having the sample box packed correctly and ready for despatch.

See Appendix 5

Sites sampling on a less frequent basis may have either a limited collection service or be requested to send packages through the postal service on a twice weekly basis. In these circumstances – samples will need to be stored in a refrigerator before despatch.

Any samples not sent on a Friday should be retained in a refrigerator until the following week and despatched Monday or Tuesday.

Once samples have been despatched, sites should inform AHVLA Newcastle by Faxing a Notification of Samples Sent form.

See Appendix 6

Payment for sampling

Sampling payments will be organised monthly and based on the number of samples tested at AHVLA by the last day of the calendar month.

Due to the time taken for both delivery and testing – some sampling will go across to the following months payment.

Sites will need to have completed the payment details form and sent it to AHVLA.

Further information

We would encourage all sampling sites to look at relevant pages on the AHVLA website for further information.

http://vla.defra.gov.uk/science/sci_tse.htm

Any other queries should be directed through the technical helpline at AHVLA Newcastle on 0845 6011367.

Appendix 1 – FSCA 2 submission form

Bovine Carcase Collection and Sample Submission Form for TSE Surveillance of Fallen Cattle Aged Over 48 Months		
Please select material type <input type="checkbox"/> Category 1 – For Disposal Only <input type="checkbox"/> Category 2 – Not For Animal Consumption		
FOR COMPLETION BY COLLECTOR		
Cable Tie Ref.	<input type="text"/>	
Collectors Job or Ref No.	<input type="text"/>	Ear Tag No. <input type="text"/>
Time and Date of Notification	<input type="text"/>	Date of Birth <input type="text"/>
PRODUCER'S DETAILS		
CPH No.	<input type="text"/>	Animal born or imported into the UK after July 1996 Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Name	<input type="text"/>	Movement Card Attached Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Address <i>If carcase not at this address, please give details in Special Info Section</i>	<input type="text"/>	Sex of Animal M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>
		Animal Alive Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Tel. No.	<input type="text"/>	Time and Date of Death <input type="text"/>
Mobile No.	<input type="text"/>	Reason for Death <i>If known</i> <input type="text"/>
		Special Info <input type="text"/>
COLLECTOR DETAILS		
Company Name	<input type="text"/>	Company Tel. No. <input type="text"/>
Company Address	<input type="text"/>	Time and Date of Collection <input type="text"/>
		Driver Name and Signature <input type="text"/>
FOR COMPLETION AT SAMPLING SITE		
Sampling Site Name	<input type="text"/>	Sampling Site Reference No. <input type="text"/>
ABP Approval No.	<input type="text"/>	ATTACH BARCODE LABEL HERE
Sampling Site Address	<input type="text"/>	
Tel. No.	<input type="text"/>	Date and Time of Sample Collection <input type="text"/>
Hide ID No. <i>If applicable</i>	<input type="text"/>	If Not Sampled, Give Reason <input type="text"/>
		Sampler Name and Signature <input type="text"/>
		Date Sent to VLA <input type="text"/>
FSCA2 Ver:1 (Rev 12/08)		

http://vla.defra.gov.uk/services/docs/ser_fallen_stock_FSCA2.pdf

Appendix 2 – Cascade Training Form

CASCADE TRAINING FORM			
NOTIFICATION OF NAMES OF STAFF TRAINED IN REMOVAL OF BRAINSTEM FROM : * <input type="checkbox"/> CATTLE <input type="checkbox"/> SHEEP & GOAT			
<small>*Please tick species to which training applies</small>			
Plant / Site Name :	_____		
Plant / Site Number : <small>(if applicable)</small>	_____		
Plant / Site Tel Number :	_____		
Plant / Site Fax Number :	_____		
FSA Region Number : <small>(if applicable)</small>	_____		
Persons Trained:-			
Name	Age	Date(s) of Training	Trainer
Name(s) of Staff Originally Trained by AHVLA : _____			
Name of original AHVLA Trainer : _____			
Signed : _____			
Name in capitals : _____			
Position (e.g. plant manager) : _____			
Date : _____			
Submit completed form to : AHVLA Newcastle , Whitley Road, Longbenton, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 9SE			
<small>Cascade Training Form – Ver4 Apr11</small>			

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/publications/ABP/CascadeTrainingForm.pdf>

Appendix 3 – Consumable Order Form

Bovine Fallen Stock (TS5902) Consumable Re-Order Form

Site Name:	
Address:	
Post Code:	Telephone:
Contact Name:	Sign:

Please use this form to order items from Stores

Description	AHVLA Code	Unit of Issue	Units required	AHVLA Use Only
Forms	FSCA2	Pad of 50		
Leg Cable Ties	DZZ0004	Pack of 100		
Disposable Spoon	QZZ0020	Pack of 20		
Disposable forceps	QCE0099	Pack of 500		
90ml sample pots	PZI0014	Pack of 400		
Ear sample bags	DIC0009	Pack of 100		
Barcode Stickers	—	Roll of 2500		
Bio-bottle (Holds 2 samples)	PZI0003	Pack of 20		
Bio - Box (Medium 6 samples)	PZI0001	Each		
Bio - Box (Large 40 samples)	PZI0013	Each		
Techni-Ice Sheet	PZI0015	Each		

Barcode sticker use is monitored by AHVLA and replacement rolls will be dispatched automatically. If you have an urgent requirement for barcode stickers please ring the TSE Enquiry Department on 0845 6011367.

Please fax to:
0191 2663605

OR Post to:
TSE Enquiries Department
AHVLA Newcastle
Whitley Road
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE12 9SE

OR Email to:
tse.enquiry.vlanewcastle@ahvla.gsi.gov.uk

For AHVLA use only

Goods Approved for dispatch

By:

Date:

Ver 3 Nov2010

http://vla.defra.gov.uk/services/docs/ser_fallen_stock_TS5902.pdf

Appendix 4 – Consumable Guidance

Consumable order guidance

This table is only intended to be used as a guide. Your own stock levels must be regularly checked and consumable requests should be based on these checks.

		Expected Sample Throughput				
		Less than 10 per week	10 - 25 per week	25 - 50 per week	10 - 50 per day	More than 50 per day
Suggested Consumable Item Request	Forms FSCA2 x50	4	10	20	40	80
	Leg Cable Ties	200	500	1000	2000	4000
	Spoons QZZ0020 x20	10	25	50	100	200
	Sample Pots PZI0014 x250	1	2	4	8	16
	Ear sample bags x100	2	5	10	20	40
	Disposable forceps QCE0099 x500	1	1	2	4	8
	Bar code stickers x2500	1 Roll	1 Roll	1 Roll	2 Rolls	2 Rolls
	Bio- Box Small PZI0003 x20	2	3	0	0	0
	Bio- Box Medium x1	40	100	100	0	0
	Bio- Box Large PZI001 x1	0	5	25	50	100
	Tech-Ice sheet PZI0015 x1	50	100	125	50	100
	Suggested Re Order level Based on pots & spoons	50	100	200	500	1000

via-order1 version 1 12-08

Appendix 5 – Box Packing Guide

Bioshield Box Packaging Guide – Prepared by Vet Labs Agency Newcastle



1) Prepare the Techni-Ice sheet, as instructed on the sheet, the day before despatch of samples.



2) Ensure all sample container lids are tightly screwed shut and exterior of containers are wiped clean. Place samples in the rack.



3) Place the rack & containers into the Pathoseal bag. Force excess air from the bag, remove the peelable tab and fully seal the bag shut.



4) The two polystyrene sheets should be placed in the bottom of the outer shipping box.



5) Put the sealed tray of sample containers into the outer shipping box.



6) The frozen pre-prepared Techni-Ice sheet should now be placed on top of the sealed sample tray.



7) Place all relevant documents in the supplied document bag and put these on top of the Techni-Ice sheet.



8) Close the box, attach a completed Hays tracking label and seal the box with the blue security sticker.

Important Note

Boxes showing any signs of external contamination, with blood or tissue, must **NOT** be despatched. If this happens, Repack the samples in a new outer shipping box before despatch.

Vet Labs Agency Newcastle – September 2005

Appendix 6 - Notification of Samples Sent form



**NOTIFICATION OF TSE SAMPLES SENT TO
AHVLA NEWCASTLE FOR TESTING**

SAMPLING SITE
FAX NUMBER
SAMPLING DATE

Sample Type	Number Sent		AHVLA NEWCASTLE USE ONLY
	Boxes	Samples	Submission Received as expected (Y/N) <i>If N record reason in comment box</i>
Cattle			
Sheep			
Goat			
Other			

Transport Type:

Please Tick		
DX <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>	TNT <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>	Royal Mail <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>

Sender's Signature

Sender's Name
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

Date Sent

Comments :

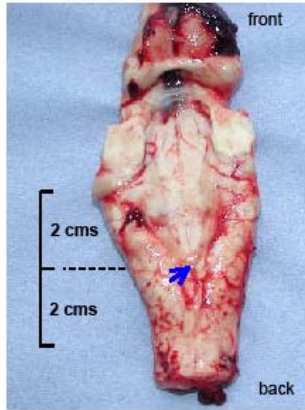
PLEASE FAX ON DAY OF SAMPLE DESPATCH TO

0191 2663605

Sample Fax Ver4 Apr11

Cattle Brainstem Sampling

Upper surface view



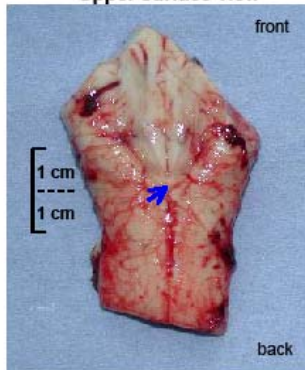
An Ideal sample

With care and practice, the operator should be able to consistently produce samples with 2 cms or more undamaged brainstem both in front and behind the point of the 'V' shape visible on the upper surface (arrowed)

Lower surface view



Upper surface view



A Marginal sample

The minimum required to ensure the sample will be suitable for testing is 1 cm of undamaged brainstem both in front and behind the point of the 'V' shape visible on the upper surface.

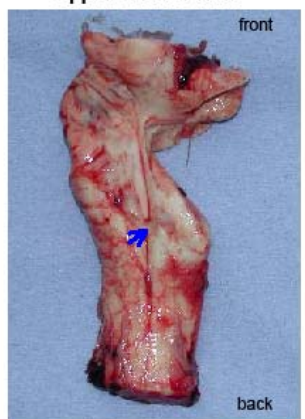
This sample is adequate, but only just !

Loss of tissue or damage at the back of the sample is usually due to careless removal of the head. Loss or damage to the front of the sample is due to poor sampling technique.

Lower surface view



Upper surface view



A Poor Sample

Damage during sampling; less than 1 cm undamaged brainstem in front of the point of the 'V' shape.

Such samples should still be sent to the laboratory, but may prove unsuitable for testing.

THE LABORATORY WILL DO ITS BEST TO TEST UNSATISFACTORY SAMPLES, BUT IF THIS PROVES IMPOSSIBLE, THE CARCASE WILL NOT BE RELEASED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND NO COMPENSATION WILL BE PAID.

Lower surface view

