**Ramirez Lab – Virginia Tech**

**Instructions for fecal samples submission**

* Collect ~4-6 grams of fecal matter. A heaping plastic teaspoon approximates the correct amount. There is a minimum sample volume needed for the test.
* Place samples in a cooler with ice to keep the samples cool until shipment.
* Ship samples **standard** **overnight Monday through Thursday**, on ice, in a styrofoam or hard cooler that is designed to keep materials cold as soon as possible after collection. Do not put samples in direct contact with ice/ice packs to prevent freezing. After collecting the samples, it is okay to keep them overnight in the refrigerator and ship them the next day. If samples are unrefrigerated for more than approximately 24 hours the parasite eggs in them can hatch, which makes a fecal egg count test invalid.
* FedEx and UPS shipping is the most reliable way to get samples to the Ramirez lab overnight and is preferred because delays can occur with Virginia Tech mail when using the U.S. Postal Service. If FedEx or UPS is not available in your area the USPS overnight delivery option can be used. If USPS is the only feasible shipping option, write “KEEP REFRIGERATED” on the package to help protect samples if they are not delivered to the lab by the Virginia Tech mail service the same day they arrive.
* Please notify the Ramirez Parasitology Laboratory at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech by email (**parasites@vt.edu**) when you ship your samples. **It is extremely important that the lab knows the samples are on the way.** **In the subject line of the email, please type “FEC – farm name.” Also, please provide the number of samples you submitted, the carrier that you used, and the tracking number.**
* Note that samples must be received by the lab the following day after shipping them; and scheduled to arrive on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday in order to be usable.If shipping through the U.S. Postal Service is the only feasible option, schedule them to arrive on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Do not ship samples by the U.S. Postal Service on Thursday. There is no one available to receive samples on weekends. It is the responsibility of the producer to track packages to ensure receipt by the Ramirez laboratory.
* **Shipping Address:**

Ramirez Parasitology Laboratory

COHR

Virginia Tech

1410 Prices Fork Rd.

Blacksburg, VA 24061

* **Results:** Results will be sent as an email attachment within 2 weeks of receipt of samples.