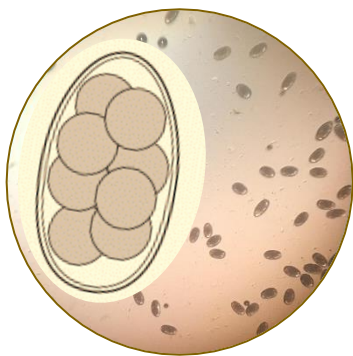


Fecal egg counting

A fecal egg count (FEC) is a quantitative measure of how many worm eggs a sheep/goat is passing in each gram of its manure. You get a number like 1000 EPG (eggs per gram of feces).

What are fecal egg counts used for?

1. Determine dewormer effectiveness. (via a fecal egg count reduction test).
2. Determine how much pasture egg contamination is occurring.
3. Identify low egg shedders (more resistant animals) and/or vice versa.
4. Support (not make) a diagnosis and treatment recommendation.

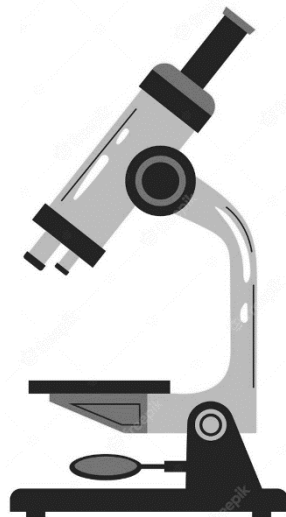


Fecal egg counts are usually for the strongyle-type worms (*Haemonchus*, *Teladorsagia*, and *Trichostrongyles*) which all look the same under magnification.

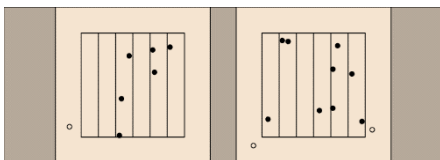


You need to collect 2-4 grams of fecal matter from each sheep/goat you want to test. Samples can be analyzed individually or as part of a pooled sample.

You can learn to do your own fecal egg counts. You need a microscope (100x; mechanical stage helpful), gram scale, flotation solution, egg counting slide (called a McMaster slide), and some other inexpensive supplies.



Unlike simple fecal flotations (often done by vet offices), fecal egg counts are quantitative because a known amount (weight) of feces is mixed with a known amount (ml) of flotation solution and the eggs are counted.



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