

How To Draw Blood - Cattle

1. Use a fresh bleeding needle with every cow.
Cross-contamination of blood will affect the results.

2. Screw the needle onto the needle holder.

3. Insert the blood collection tube into the other end of the needle holder until the stopper touches the back portion of the needle. Do not puncture the stopper. Hold these assembled materials in one hand.

4. Lift the cow's tail with the other hand.

5. Insert the needle about 13 mm deep and perpendicular to the tail at the underside, midline and at about 75mm to 150mm from the base of the tail. In this region, there is a longitudinal, midline ridge of skin through which you push the needle.

6. Blood will appear at the junction of the stopper and the back portion of the needle once the vein is punctured. If it does not appear, pull the needle out slightly and insert in a different direction until the vein is punctured.

7. Once blood is seen, push the tube onto the needle. Be sure to keep the needle under the skin since vacuum will pull blood into the tube and if lost, blood cannot be collected.

8. Use a second tube if this happens.

9. Collect 2 cc or more of blood.

10. Withdraw the needle from the skin and remove the tube from the tube holder.

11. Sequentially label the sample vials with the ear tag ID using a permanent marker on the vial LABEL. Labelling the tube will assist the laboratory in sample organization and help expedite results.

12. Place the tube in an ice rack or refrigerator until shipment.

13. Unscrew the needle from the needle holder and discard the needle into a "sharps" container and re-use the needle holder.

14. Completely fill out the PREGTEST Sample Submission Form. Please be certain that the total number of samples sent is correct.

15. Return samples to the laboratory in a box.

Ship to: Pregtest Australia P.O. Box 838 Yass 2582

16. Ship samples to the laboratory using Express Post. Make certain that the Pregtest Sample Submission Form accompanies the samples.

17. Don't forget to recheck pregnant cows tested at 28 days again between 70 and 80 days as a certain percentage will experience early embryonic death loss. Confirmation pregnancy checks are very important for this reason.

Further Information and Enquiries – contact
PREGTEST Australia on 02 6227 6227 or 0409 88 685

