



Cattle - Sample Collection

- Use a fresh bleeding needle with every cow. Cross-contamination of blood will affect the results.
- Screw the Vacutainer needle onto the needle holder.
- Insert the Vacutainer 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.
- Lift the cow's tail with the other hand.
- Insert the needle about 1/2 inch deep and perpendicular to the tail at the underside, midline and at about 3 to 6 inches from the base of the tail. In this region, there is a longitudinal, midline ridge of skin through which you push the needle.
- 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.
- Once blood is seen, push the tube onto the back portion of needle creating a vacuum. Be sure to keep the bleeding portion of the needle under the skin as the vacuum will pull blood into the tube and if suction is lost, blood cannot be collected. Use a new tube if this happens.
- Collect 2cc or more of blood. Samples less than 2cc cannot be used for testing.
- Withdraw the needle from the skin, remove tube from holder, unscrew the Vacutainer needle from the needle holder, and discard the needle into a "sharps" container. Needle holders can be reused.
- Sequentially and LEGIBLY label the sample vials with the ear tag ID using a permanent marker on the vial label, NOT the rubber stopper. These IDs should also be reflected on the submission sheet.
- Place the tube(s) in a refrigerator until ready for shipment.
- Completely fill out the BioPRYN Pregnancy Test Form ([here](#)). Please be certain that the total number of samples sent is correct, IDs match tube numbers, and payment is included.
- Send samples (wrapped in absorbant material in a plastic bag) and submission form in a box to the laboratory following shipping instructions.
- Tennessee Livestock Testing will process all samples received in a weekly batch, and results will be reported via email.

* Don't forget to recheck cows that tested "pregnant" 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.