SciTell™ Microbiome Analytics

Sampling Guidelines



A simple and non-invasive way to collect excreta samples for microbiome analysis.

Please read the sampling guidelines carefully before taking samples.

Kit contents:

- 24 sample collection tubes (with buffer)
- 24 wooden spatulas
- Sampling guideline
- Data collection leaflet
- Safety bag
- Absorbent material
- Box seal sticker
- Pre-paid return label

If anything is missing, please contact your dsm-firmenich representative before sampling.

STEP 1: Preparing for sampling

- Prepare the tubes and spatulas according to sampling suggested described on the table below
- Broilers produce two normal types of droppings, intestinal and cecal. **Collect only intestinal droppings, which are firm brown or green feces with a white urate cap,** and avoid cecal droppings, which are soft, pasty, and mustard yellow to dark brown with a strong odor
- Collect intestinal droppings from different locations of the house to ensure a representative sample set (e.g., near the entrance, by the drinkers, feeders, and the point farthest from the entrance)
- Collect intestinal dropping directly from the floor
- Collect approximately 250 mg (about the size of a pea). As illustrated in the image, the sample represents approximately one-third of the overall buffer volume.



- Each tube is for a collection of one fresh intestinal droppings (do not make a pool of droppings)
- Use the data collection leaflet to capture relevant information that will be later used for the registration of the samples via the online form

Phases	Starter	Grower	Finisher
Farm house	A	B	C
Tube color	Transparent	Blue	Red
Number of samples	8	8	8

How to collect a good sample

- Avoid contamination with bedding, feathers, or feed
- Ensure intestinal droppings are fresh:
  - Excreta should be wet, sometimes with a shiny surface
  - The color of the excreta should be brownish or greenish, depending on diet, with a white urate cap
  - Ensure dropping texture is soft or semi-solid; may appear sticky or gelatinous
  - On the surroundings of the dropping, it may have a small wet patch or stain on bedding or ground



Example of fresh intestinal dropping

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STEP 2: Collecting samples

- Open the tube carefully to not spill the buffer
- Pick up the sample using a new wooden spatula
- Insert sample into tube. Place material into buffer
- Close the tube tightly, and shake vigorously for a few seconds to mix well
- Place tube into the rack and discard the spatula. Use a new tube and spatula for the next sample
- After completing all samples, store the tubes in a refrigerator at approximately 4 °C until shipment or further processing

STEP 3: Online registration of samples and farm information

- Open SciTell™ Microbiome Analytics Data collection sheet – Fill out form, via your phone or computer using the QR code



- Please, answer all the relevant questions and submit the form

STEP 4: Preparation for shipping

- Place the racks with the tubes and absorbent material inside the safety bag and seal the bag
- Place in the box all the following elements:
  - Safety bag with tubes and absorbent material
  - Data collection leaflet
- Do not include the spatulas in the box. Please discard them.
- Close the box and seal it with the sticker
- Please stick the prepaid return label over the old one
- Make sure the lable is not covering the sign "EXEMPT ANIMAL SPECIMEN"

STEP 5: Shipping instructions

- Keep the box in a refrigerator at approximately 4° C until shipment
- You can call DHL locally to get the package picked up at your place or bring it to a DHL pick-up point (shipment can be done at room temperature)

STEP 6: What happens next

- Samples are processed using SciTell™ Microbiome Analytics workflow
- You will receive your report and recommendation within 10 working days after lab week (samples are analyzed in the first week of every month)
- Your account manager will contact you to review results

If you have questions or problems, please contact your dsm-firmenich representative

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