

## FECAL SAMPLE PROTOCOL

### **Single sample for individual animal testing:**

- Collect at least 8 – 10 grams of fresh fecal material from the animal of interest:
- Feces can be collected from the ground if they are still fresh and not trampled.
- Do not collect trampled, old, or dry feces as they will result in falsely low fecal egg counts.

### **Pooled samples for herd testing:**

- Close the animals in a clean pen or corner of the pasture for 15 – 20 minutes, release the group, and then collect the feces from the ground.
- Collect at least 10 individual samples if possible, with 8 – 10 grams of feces for each sample. Place each sample in a separate plastic container.
- **Do not pool multiple samples together in the same container.** The samples will be pooled at the clinic to ensure an equal amount of each sample contributes to the pool for most accurate results.
- Samples from young lambs or kids should be collected and pooled separately from samples from adult ewes or does, as these two groups will have very different parasite burdens even if they are on the same pasture.

### **Storage and transportation of samples:**

- Store each sample in a sealed plastic bag.
- Force as much air as possible from the sample bags prior to sealing.
- Store the samples in the fridge or on ice (do not freeze) until they can be delivered to the clinic.
- Samples can be analyzed up to 3 days after collection if kept in the fridge.