

Oral Fluid Collection Procedure for Pigs

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Pre-made oral fluid collection kit
 - Available for purchase from ITL Biomedical.
 - Note: These kits only sell by the case (36 samples). Visit www.itlbiomedical.com/animal/products-animal/ or call 1-888-411-2851.

OR

- Make Your Own Kit at Home:
 1. 3-strand twisted undyed cotton rope (1/2 inch for nursery pigs, 5/8" for grow/finish and adult pigs.)
 2. Clean plastic bag – you can use a plastic boot, Ziplock bag, or semen collection bags.
 3. Side cutters, knife, or scissors – may be used to cut cotton rope from the pen divider.
 4. Snap-cap, screw-top tube, or red top tube – Collection tubes may include most tubes with a cap. However, make sure that tubes do not contain additives such as EDTA or heparin. If using glass blood collection tubes, use only red-top tubes (without additives.)
 5. Permanent marker
 6. Gloves – wear disposable gloves to prevent contamination of oral fluid samples. If you squeeze down the rope and the rope is not in the bag, wearing disposable gloves is recommended.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Determine the number of samples that you need to collect.
 - a. To meet the requirements in Wisconsin's rule, 1 oral fluid sample for farms with less than 150 pigs is needed. If your farm has more than 150 pigs, you will need to collect 3 oral fluid samples.
2. Suspend the rope in the pen.
 - a. The rope should be tied to a sturdy gate in a clean area of the pen where several pigs are able to reach it at the same time.
 - b. Try to avoid tying the rope near waterers and feeders.
 - c. The rope should be long enough to reach the shoulder of the pigs but should be trimmed if longer to avoid fecal contamination.
3. Let the pigs chew on the rope for 20-30 minutes.
 - a. For nursery pigs, untwisting the rope into smaller strands makes it easier for them to chew on.
4. Wring the sample out of the rope into a plastic bag.
 - a. Wear disposable gloves to prevent contamination of the oral fluid samples.

- b. Insert the wet end of the rope into a clean plastic bag.
 - c. Strip the rope so the fluid accumulates in the corner of the bag.
5. Cut a corner of the plastic and drain fluid into the collection tube.
 - a. Since the large particles will sink to the bottom and account for a large portion of the sample, **try to collect at least 5 ml of oral fluids.**
 - b. Be sure to label the tube with a pen and barn number if you want it for future reference.
6. Refrigerate until you can get the sample to the vet clinic.
 - a. Samples that are not tested within 24 hours of collection should be immediately frozen.
7. Take the samples to a local veterinary clinic for submission to a veterinary diagnostics lab.
 - a. Discuss with your veterinarian whether you should run a PCR or ELISA test.
 - b. **For the WPA reimbursement program, we would like PCR tests done. This will offer \$100 rebates. If a PCR test is not done, then you will only be reimbursed \$35 for the ELISA test.**

HELPFUL HINTS:

- Pigs are more active in the morning. If pigs are inattentive to the rope, the afternoon collections may take more time than the standard 20-30 minutes.
- If reluctant to approach the rope, pigs can be trained by placing a rope in the pen to play with or by flavoring these practice ropes with sugar solutions. The pigs will then more aggressively chew on the diagnostic sample ropes in the future. These training ropes should be discarded.
- Do not collect diagnostic samples from ropes contacting the floor or from flavored ropes.
- Samples submitted should not contain large amounts of organic material such as feed or fecal material.

MORE INFORMATION:

Visit: https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/SwineMovement.aspx

QUESTIONS:

Contact the Wisconsin Pork Association by emailing wppa@wppa.org or calling 608-723-7551.

