

## Instructions for taking Environmental samples

A total of 6 Environmental Samples must be collected from the following three areas:

- I. **Manure storage areas from adult cows (2 samples)**  
Lagoons, piles, or pits (10 cm beneath the surface). Personal safety is critical so please collect samples in a safe manner.
- II. **Manure concentration areas of adult cows (2 samples)**  
Free stall: any areas where there will be a good mixture of manure: alleyways, cross-over areas, around waterers, corners, or the ends of scrape lanes.  
Tie stall: any areas where manure mingles: corners of gutter, barn cleaner, boom/ramp.
- III. **Cow concentration areas (2 samples)**  
Sick cow pens, if these pens are being used by more than 2-3 cows at one time. If the pens are empty or there are only 1 or 2 cows in the pen or there are no sick cow pens, collect two extra samples from manure concentration areas.

### Sample protocol for environmental samples:

1. Write the farm name on the stickers and label the samples.
2. Use a clean plastic glove for each sample.
3. Each sample should consist of 4 subsamples. To maximise the information gained from these samples, each subsample should be a mixture of manure from as many mature cows as possible, NOT one individual cow sample. Use a zip lock bag to mix the 4 subsamples well (use a clean zip lock bag for each sample). Fill the provided vial from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to a maximum of  $\frac{3}{4}$  with this sample.
4. Record the farm name, owner's name and the date of sampling on top of the **Environmental sample description sheet**.
5. Fill out the **Environmental sample description sheet** by specifying type of animal and location of the six samples with checkmarks. More than one checkmark per section is possible (comment if necessary)
6. All samples should be kept cool after collection and refrigerated as soon as possible after collection. **Do not freeze samples or leave them in the sun**. Please ship samples **with the description sheet** as soon as possible after collection.

### Supplies:

- 6 small zip lock bags to mix subsamples
- 6 vials with labels
- 1 consent form
- 1 "Environmental Sample Description Sheet" (**fill out and send with samples**)

