



Diagnostic and Analytical Services

Veterinary Laboratory Service

## **DIAGNOSIS OF BOVINE VENEREAL CAMPYLOBACTERIOSIS BY ELISA**

Bovine venereal campylobacteriosis (BVC) is caused by *Campylobacter fetus* subsp. *venerealis* and is characterised by infertility and early embryonic death. Abortion occurs in a small percentage of affected cows.

The ELISA detects IgA antibodies in the vaginal mucus. The test is a useful aid for abortion and/or infertility investigations.

### **SAMPLES FROM ABORTIONS**

Animals which have aborted can be sampled from 1 to 3 months following abortion.

### **SAMPLES FROM INFERTILITY**

The test is a useful herd test in cases of infertility in herds where BVC infection is suspected. A representative sample, at least 10, is collected from heifers or cows. Sampling can be done at pregnancy testing when a test reveals infertility.

In herds where abortion occurs and infertility exists, samples can be collected from both groups.

### **NECESSARY EQUIPMENT**

1. 4.5 ml phosphate buffered saline containing 0.05% Tween 20 (PBST).
2. Sterile swab.

These will be sent from the RVL on request.

***PBST is a stable media and will keep for long periods if kept frozen.***

### **SAMPLING PROCEDURE**

Following cleaning of the perineum the swab is introduced into the vagina as cranially as possible. The swab should be pressed against the vaginal wall and turned a few times to ensure full saturation.

Only slight faecal contamination of the swab is acceptable.

Following sampling, the cotton head of the swab should be cut and placed in PBST, chilled and then despatched with a completed Specimen Submission Form to the RVL as soon as possible.