# BJD Herd Environment Culture Test (HEC Test) Collection Protocol

The aim is to collect a sample that is representative of the whole herd – i.e. most cows in the herd are represented in the sample.

* The yard must be clean prior to bringing the cattle in for milking on the day of sampling.
* After milking has been completed, 500 ml of faecal material should be collected from the concrete yard/ standing area in front of the milking shed before any wash down is started.
* The faecal material should be pushed together using a shovel or a shed scraper following a “W” or “X” scraping pattern across the full length and breadth of the area being sampled.
* Thoroughly mix the faecal material in the pile.
* Collect 500 ml of faecal slurry into two large (250 ml) clearly labelled containers.
* The containers should be put into a plastic bag, placed in an esky and couriered to the laboratory for culture accompanied by a laboratory submission form.