
TSU Guidelines – A UQ & AWA Joint Initiative

In an effort to further clarify the TSU pipeline, this document has been produced to provide AWA members with guidelines, in a step-by-step fashion, for submitting TSUs to UQ for testing.

Following these guidelines in their entirety will ensure the best chance of success for your samples in the lab. Failure to adhere to them will potentially result in testing failures and an increase in both time and money spent.

This document will outline the main areas of the pipeline – Collection, Application and Transport.

Collection

Dry TSUs (i.e. those without the liquid preservative) **MUST** be collected onto ice and then stored in the fridge (not frozen) ASAP. Liquid TSUs are stable at room temperature.

1. Collect samples taking care to change the blade between each animal
2. In the yards, store samples on ice in an esky (if dry TSU) or out of direct sunlight (liquid TSU) during collection process
3. Once back inside, store dry TSUs in the fridge and liquid TSUs out of direct sunlight

It is imperative that dry TSUs are kept on ice wherever possible for the entire duration of their time outside a fridge. This is particularly important to remember if you are collecting on a 40+ degree day – it is important to keep the ice fresh and samples cold throughout the day, if they sit in tepid water for a prolonged period of time on your collection day they are likely to require recollecting.

Application

TSUs will only be processed at the AGL when the appropriate AWA application form has been received. It is vital that you liaise with the AWA to ensure the registrar has the correct information in enough time to complete and send your file such that it arrives before your samples do.

4. Assemble all relevant calf & parent details for the animals in question
5. Go to the AWA website SMARTREC system, identify the tag number from a drop-down list and begin registering the animal. This includes the ordering of UQ DNA parent verification and genetic condition tests, which are sent electronically to UQ.

The AWA SMARTREC GUIDELINES and instructions can be found by following the link below:
http://wagyu.org.au/content/uploads/2014/11/Wagyu_SMARTREC_guidelines_v6.pdf

6. **Alternatively**, if you do not wish to register through the AWA website SMARTREC system, you may still conduct DNA Parent Verification using the TSUs instead of hair samples. The AWA instructions can be found by following the link below:

<http://wagyu.org.au/breeding-wagyu/seedstock-sires-dams/understanding-dna/dna-parent-verification/>

Transport

In a bid to minimise time from collection, and in light of the immediate need for a lengthy processing procedure upon their arrival, TSU samples must be “booked in” with the AGL.

7. Before the samples are sent, call AGL to arrange a suitable posting date to ensure your samples can be processed immediately upon their arrival
8. Send samples to AGL – dry TSU packed in plenty of ice or cold packs, liquid TSU can be sent normally

We have found that it takes about 4 days on average for TSU samples to arrive at the laboratory. With this in mind, we ask that you only consider sending your samples on a Monday to ensure that they are not left in a holding station over the weekend.

Upon the samples’ arrival at AGL, the staff will perform 2 quick tests – they will take the temperature of the samples in their original postage material (for dry TSU only) and they will do a ‘sniff test’ of a few samples. If either of these two tests give undesirable results the staff will contact you to discuss your options going forward in order to minimise time and money spent unnecessarily.

It is important to note that it is the individual member (not AGL or AWA) that is financially responsible for the resubmission and re-test of any TSU recollects brought about by a failure to adhere to the guidelines set out in this document; this is due to the high cost of processing TSUs in terms of both the laboratory resources and the immediate and individual staff attention required for the best chance of success.

Cover Sheet (enclose with samples)

Name: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Herd Code: _____

Number of Samples: _____

Test: _____

Checklist (enclose with samples)

- Collect samples taking care to change the blade between each animal

Collection Date: _____

- In the yards, store samples on ice (if dry TSU) or out of direct sunlight (liquid TSU) during collection process
- Once back inside, store dry TSUs in the fridge and liquid TSUs out of direct sunlight
- Use SMARTREC system (or the UQ AGL Spreadsheet if only DNA Parent Verification is required) to enter animal details required by UQ & AWA
- Before the samples are sent, call the AGL

AGL Informed: _____

Samples Sent: _____

- Send samples to AGL (dry TSUs must be sent on ice in an esky):

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