

## Fecal Egg Counting

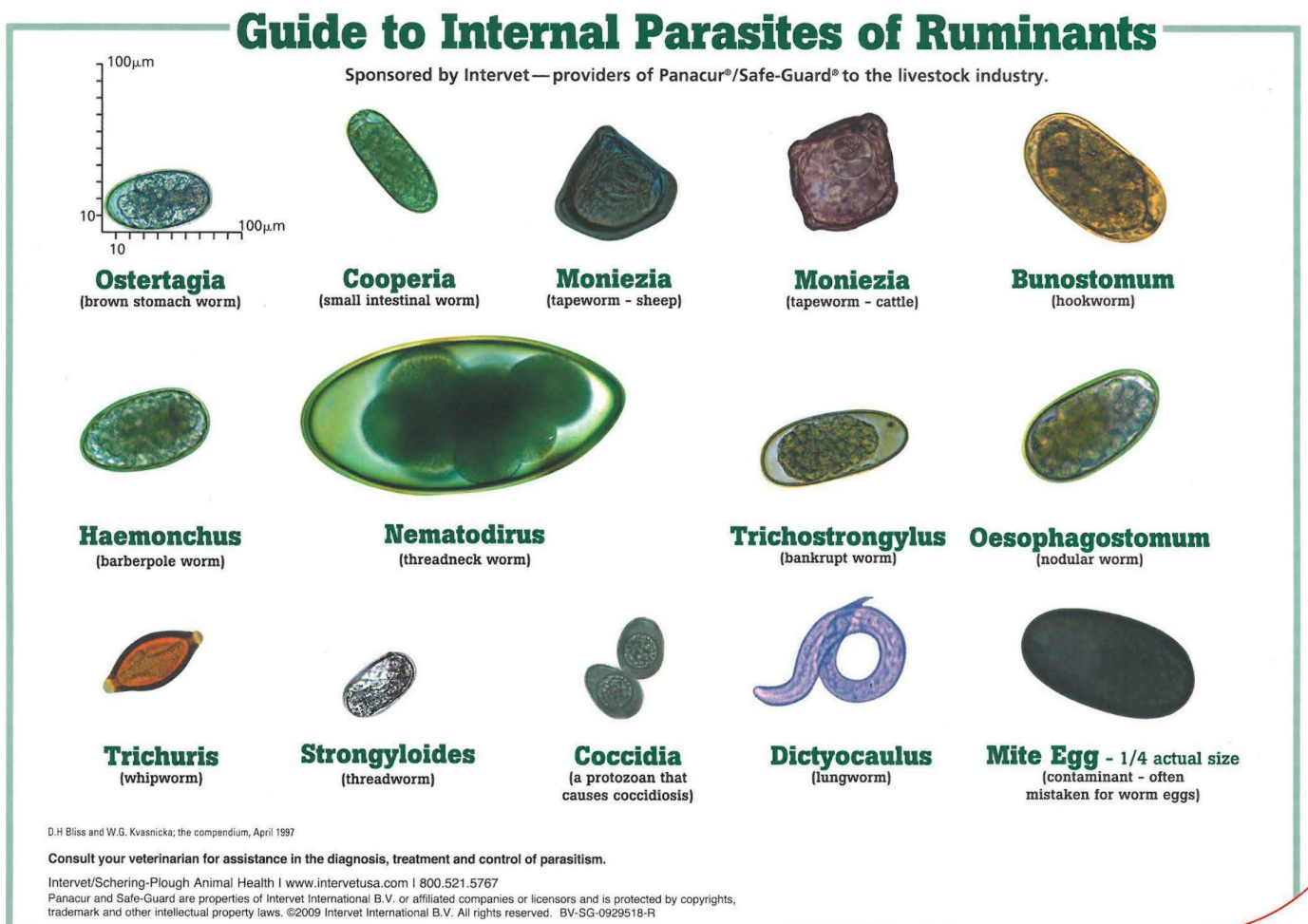
Procedure taken from "Improving Small Ruminant Parasite Control in New England," USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program LNE10-300

Adapted by BOTL Farm, 2022-02-20

Flotation solution: 1.5 lb MgSO<sub>4</sub> (magnesium sulfate, 'epsom salts') in 4 cups H<sub>2</sub>O

### Procedure

1. Crush and knead fecal sample as necessary. Weigh 2 grams in a glass beaker
2. Dispense 28 mL flotation solution into the beaker, stir, and let soak for **5 min**
3. Stir again. Pour mixture through metal strainer, pressing fluid through with a tongue depressor
4. **Immediately** fill both chambers of the McMaster slide using an eyedropper. If large bubbles occur, dump the slide and re-do.
5. Wait **at least 5 min**. Do not wait more than an hour
6. Read slide using microscope
7. Count both chambers
8. Total egg count = (chamber 1 + chamber 2) x 50 = eggs per gram (EPG) [this multiplication factor of 50 is specific to the ratio of feces (2 grams) to flotation solution (28 mL) in this procedure. Each egg observed represents 50 eggs/gram; therefore, this procedure will not detect fewer than 50 eggs/gram, which is equivalent to seeing one strongylid egg on the McMaster slide]



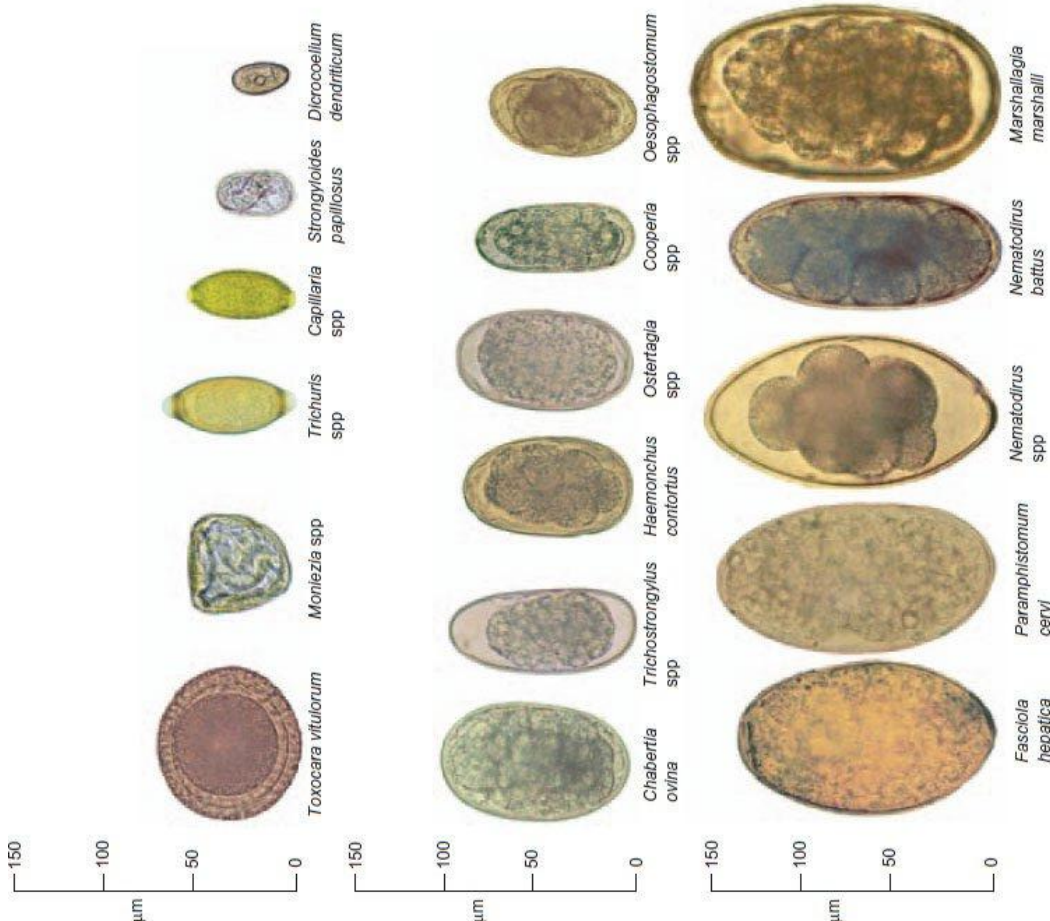
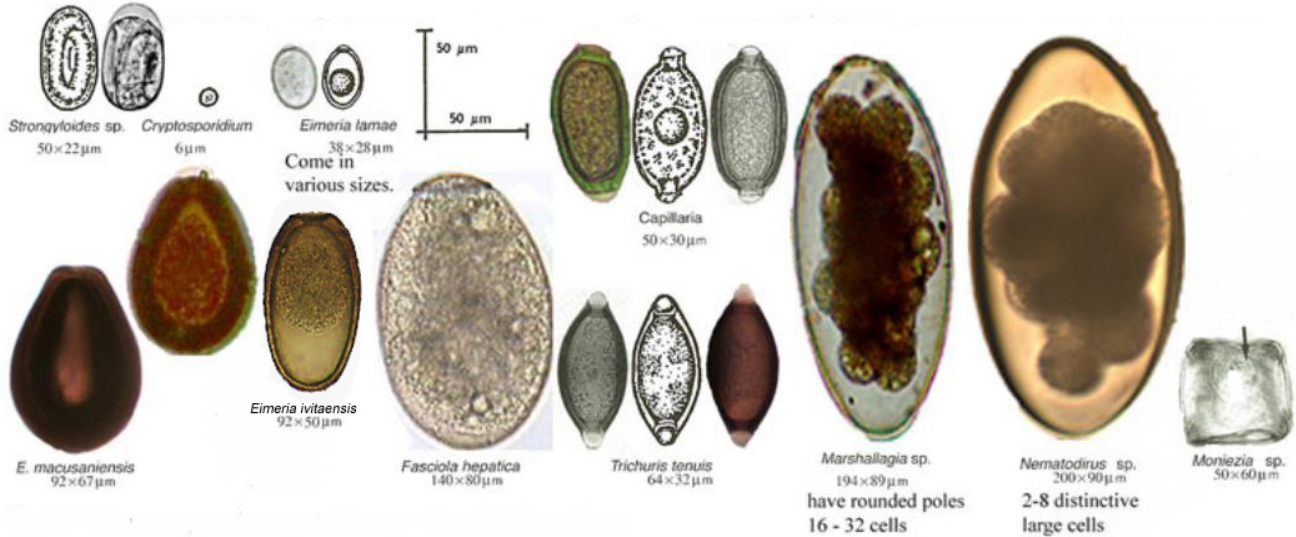


Uinta Alpacas has compiled this reference from various books, web images and photos.  
Most of the eggs have an illustrated version and at least one photographic version for comparison.

## Relative Sizes of Alpaca Parasite Eggs



Trichostrongyle-type (the whole top row) and Strongyloides are often confused, but Strongyloides are smaller and often contain larvae.



## Ascaris suum

