



Batch Rate Testing at EMAI - Update 2008

Currently, a number of molecular-based tests are offered at EMAI at either a full rate or a batch rate. Full rate submissions are sent directly to EMAI from the owner, incur a higher cost but have a higher priority and shorter turnaround time. Whereas, batch rate submissions **must** be sent via the appropriate breed society, are cheaper and have no set turn-around time. NSW DPI has a history of providing discounted batch rate testing for Breed Societies, to aid in the early and effective management of genetic diseases. Below is a table of the anticipated turn around times for each test/sample type.

Table 1.


Sample	Full Rate Turnaround time for results	Batch Rate Turnaround time for results
Hair	10 working days	No set turn-around time but we aim for a maximum of 4-6 weeks
Semen	10 working days	N/A
Blood	10 working days	N/A

N/A – Not applicable

The batch rate testing agreement is an informal arrangement and submissions must meet the following conditions **or they will be charged at the full rate.**

1. Batch rate testing is available **only** for hair samples submitted via the appropriate breed society.
2. The owners collect hair samples
 - a. Each hair sample is placed in its own NSW DPI envelope (see Figure 1) or breed society arranged equivalent. NSW DPI envelopes can be supplied to the societies and these can then in turn be forwarded on to members via the breed society. **These are not sent directly to members from NSW DPI.** Non-NSW DPI envelopes can be used but will **not** be accepted without a clearly labelled key list number and individual sample number.

Figure 1

 NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES Elizabeth Macarthur Agricultural Institute Regional Veterinary Laboratory - Menangle Genetics Private Mail Bag 8 Camden NSW 2570 Phone: +61 2 4640 6327; Fax: +61 2 4640 6400	Sample No: <input type="text"/>
	Keylist No: <input type="text"/>
OWNER DETAILS <input type="text"/>	
ANIMAL DETAILS <input type="text"/>	

- b. The owner's details, individual animal identification and key list details are recorded on the envelope for the breed society's recording purposes.
 - c. For each sample in the batch an individual sample number is recorded in the Sample No. box in the top right hand corner and the key list number for the batch is recorded in the key list number box below it. **The sample number and key list number are the only numbers used by the laboratory.**
3. To submit samples for batch rate testing, the breed society:
- a. Accumulates a batch consisting of a minimum of 10 samples. We would prefer the number of samples to be higher if possible but we will now accept a minimum of 10 from all breed societies. We would also prefer a maximum of 50-60 samples as this would minimise the delay in getting results out. However, this is not mandatory and is negotiable based on the needs of the breed society and the owners.
 - b. Forwards the batch with a single submission form, clearly indicating which test are required, for all of the samples in the batch, with the breed society acting as the submitter and owner (the owner details are not required by EMAI). The submission must be accompanied with a cover letter on breed society letter head. Please include in this letter the following information (this can be cut and pasted from this document) with the appropriate selection ticked.

<p style="text-align: center;">1-9 samples, requesting full rate <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p style="text-align: center;">10+ samples, requesting batch rate <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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4. The Genetics Laboratory at EMAI performs the test(s) and reports the results directly to the breed society where the key list and sample numbers are used to link the result back to the appropriate sample.
5. The breed society then:
- a. Records the results in the stud books (making them available to all breed society members).
 - b. Distributes the test results to owners.
6. NSW DPI invoices the breed society for the testing. The breed society then invoices the owner. (It is advisable not to pre-pay based on the number of samples sent to the breed society as some samples may fail and need to be re-submitted at a latter date). Resubmissions are charged at the batch rate regardless of number of samples but the appropriate breed society paperwork must accompany these samples clearly stating that these are re-submissions.
7. There is no set turn-around time for batch submissions as the full rate work is given the highest priority. However, we aim to have the results available in no longer than 4-6 weeks. Please note that problematic samples within the batch may delay the results being made available.

8. We strongly encourage owners to plan ahead as we are reluctant to reassign batch rate samples to the full rate at the request of the owner via the breed society. EMAI uses a computer based sample management system and should this occur each sample needs to be manually adjusted in the system. If this practice continues we will have to consider introducing a fee to cover the cost of the extra sample management in the future.

Owners requiring results by a particular date are advised to submit their samples directly to EMAI at the full rate (this can be done via the breed society but this needs to be made clear when sending the samples to the breed society). A NSW DPI EMAI Genetics submission form (available from EMAI or the breed society) must accompany these samples. Owners that wish to use the full rate submission process but would like the results to be sent to the breed society can do so by signing the declaration at the bottom of the NSW DPI EMAI Genetics submission form.

Owners that choose **not** to have results disclosed to the breed society still have the option of submitting directly (privately) at the full rate.

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