

LABORATORY

Standard operating procedure for egg quality analysis

The integrity of the sample is of critical importance to ensure that analytical results are a true reflection of the eggs that have been collected from a farm or pack station. The following sampling and shipping guidelines should be followed carefully to ensure that we receive a representative sample at the laboratory as quickly as possible. Completion of an egg analysis request form is needed before the analysis can commence and should be emailed to chem.lab@chemuniqué.co.za or submitted to the lab together with the samples. If you have any questions regarding the completion of the egg analysis request form or if you simply want to find out more, please do not hesitate to contact the Chemuniqué egg laboratory directly at chem.lab@chemuniqué.co.za and we would be happy to assist with any queries you may have regarding the service.

1. Sampling protocol

- 1.1. The minimum sample size is 30 eggs collected per treatment/house (smaller samples are less likely to be representative of the source). A tray of 30 eggs is considered to be one sample.
- 1.2. Please ensure that all 30 eggs collected are from hens of the same age, in the same house, and on the same diet, but make sure that a random sample is collected that is representative of the entire group.
- 1.3. Eggs can be collected either from the layer house on the farm or the pack station.
 - a. Do not collect eggs from the rejects at the pack station, as these do not allow for good results.
 - b. When eggs are collected from the layer house, ensure that eggs do not have any holes/cracks in them, as this will exclude them from analysis.
- 1.4. To facilitate the most efficient egg quality analysis service, please ensure that each tray of 30 eggs is clearly marked with the farm name, house number, and hen age, and that this information corresponds to the sample number on the sample submission sheet.
- 1.5. Please also complete and attach the egg analysis request form.

2. Shipping Guidelines

- 2.1. Eggs should be shipped in egg trays, with care taken to cause the minimum harm and/or cracking to the eggs during shipping.
- 2.2. If it is not possible to ship the eggs immediately, it is advisable to keep them refrigerated to preserve the integrity of the eggs.
- 2.3. Please ensure that each sample contains at least 30 eggs.
- 2.4. Please include a detailed description of each sample, including the date sampled, name of the farm, house number, hen age, as well as additional details such as special dietary treatments or anything else not included on the sample submission form.
- 2.5. Please email the courier tracking number and a PDF copy of all documentation to our laboratory so that we can track delivery of the samples.

Egg analysis request form

COMPANY: _____ SAMPLING DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CONTACT: _____

NUTRITIONIST: _____ EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR REQUESTED ANALYSES BY TICKING THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES).

Egg volume

Albumen height, Haugh unit, and yolk colour

Shell thickness

Egg weight

Shell breaking strength

Shell percentage

OTHER, please specify: _____

e.g. shell mottling, shell colour

Sample no.	Number of eggs	Breed	Age	House	Site / Farm	Free range / Commercial	Date of lay	Collection date
1								
2								
3								
4								
5								
6								
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								
14								
15								

Name and surname: _____ Position: _____

Date of submission: _____ Signature: _____

Please note: Completion of an egg analysis request form is needed before the analysis can commence and should be emailed to chem.lab@chemunique.co.za or submitted to the lab together with the samples. Deliver samples to Chemuniqué Laboratory, 28 Eagle Lane, Lanseria Business Park, Lanseria, 1739.