

## Contents

<b>1 Abstract</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2 Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3 Materials and methods</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 <i>Herds and Animals</i>	4
3.2 <i>Sampling</i>	5
3.3 <i>Pooling and Decontamination Procedure</i>	5
3.4 <i>Culture</i>	6
3.5 <i>Preparation of genomic DNA from fecal samples</i>	6
3.6 <i>Real-Time PCR</i>	7
<b>4 Results</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5 Discussion</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6 References</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>7 Tables</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>8 Figures</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>9 Curriculum vitae</b>	
<b>10 Acknowledgements</b>	