

July 27, 2022

Collection of Milk Samples for Microbiological Culture

Materials

1. Sterile test tubes with 3 – 5 ml capacity
B-D Falcon 35-2058, sterile nonpyrogenic 12x75 polystyrene tubes
Order from VWR (865-1065).
2. Alcohol swabs (70 % isopropanol)
3. Latex or nitrile gloves

Protocol

1. Label individual test tubes with cow number and quarter (RF, LF, RR, LR) with tape or permanent marker.
2. Collect sample prior to a regular milking.
3. Put on gloves to prevent bacteria on hands from contaminating the sample.
4. Prepare udder as for milking and dry the teats.
5. Remove any debris from teat end and wipe.
6. Wait 5 seconds before collecting sample.
7. Discard first 3 – 4 streams of milk.
8. Collect the milk sample (3 – 5 ml, roughly half a tube) in the sterile tube without allowing the container to touch the teat end or any other object. Angle the tube away from the teat to prevent debris from falling into the tube.
9. Do not touch the inside of the cap or the top of the tube.
10. Replace cap immediately after sample is collected.
11. Repeat for other quarters, as needed using a separate alcohol swab and test tube for each quarter.
12. Store sample in refrigerator if it will be delivered to the mastitis lab within **4 hours**. Otherwise, place the sample in the freezer.
13. Best results are obtained with samples less than 24 hours old.

Laboratory

Animal Disease Lab 863-0837

Mastitis Lab 863-1257

Results are generally available in 48 hours.