



How to take a Milk Sample for Culture and Sensitivity

IMPORTANT:

- ☛ Correct sampling technique is essential when trying to identify mastitis causing bacteria. Contamination can occur through the hands of the sampler, cows teat not cleaned or dried before sample is taken, and the housing environment.
- ☛ Collect milk samples before antibiotics are administered.
- ☛ Sterile containers with NO preservative must be used.
- ☛ Gloves must be worn. Do not take milk samples using milking equipment.
- ☛ Samples are best taken prior to milking.

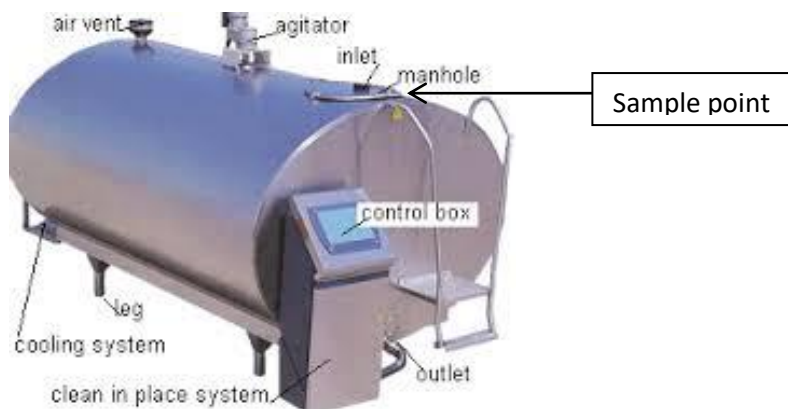
Procedure for taking individual milk samples:

- ☛ Label sample container prior to use (i.e. date, farmer, cow, quarter RF, RH, LF, LH).
- ☛ Clean the teats by brushing off any heavy dirt material first, then washing and drying the teats.
- ☛ Scrub each teat with 70% alcohol (an alcohol wipe can be used, change for each teat).
- ☛ Discard the first stream of milk obtained from the quarter, hold the sample container at a 45 degree angle and do not allow the teat to touch the container. (1-3 streams of milk is sufficient).
- ☛ If taking a composite sample (4 teats), collect an equal volume from each teat (1-2 streams of milk per teat is sufficient).
- ☛ Fridge samples immediately (or put on ice) and deliver to the lab within 24 hrs.



Procedure for taking bulk milk samples:

- ☛ Agitate the bulk milk tank for a minimum of 5 minutes.
- ☛ Use a sterile dipper to collect the sample at the top of the tank (never from the bottom).



- ☛ Fridge sample immediately (or put on ice) and deliver to the lab within 24 hrs.