



Milk Sampling Procedures

Finished Product Sampling for SPC TC and SCC Testing

1. The “goal” is to submit the best representative sample of the milk for laboratory analysis, and should be taken from the cow or goat **milk that has been mixed together (if there are other herd mates), filtered, chilled, poured into the final jar and “ready to consume.”**
2. **Agitate the milk container thoroughly** to mix the fat that has separated. If not mixed properly, the Somatic Cell Count (SCC) will be adversely affected.
3. Using **the large 50mL (green top) sterile vials** that came with your intro kit, fill both **2/3 full** with milk from the container. Avoid touching the jar to the edge of the vial and the inside of the lid.
4. Fill out tube **label information** and mark one sample for SPCTC and the other for SCC.
5. **Freeze the milk samples along with the gel packs** provided in the kit.

Individual Cow or Goat Samples

Individual goat or cow samples can be taken to monitor for contagious pathogens and diagnose the pathogen causing mastitis. All mastitis samples should be taken before treating with antibiotics. Sterile 10ml sample vials are available in the Homestead test kit if requested and can be frozen and shipped with any other milk samples.

1. Milk samples for bacterial cultures can only be **taken directly from the cow or goat teat to the sterile sample vial.**
2. **Udders should be clean and dry** to limit debris from contaminating the milk sample. Washing udders is not recommended unless extremely dirty.
3. **Be as clean and sterile as possible!** Wearing Latex type gloves is always recommended for milking and sampling.
4. **The sample can be taken after milking is complete.** It’s generally less disruptive to her normal milking route, and the teat ends are cleaner.
5. Use one sterile vial per teat.
6. **Swab each teat end** with a damp alcohol cotton ball or pad.
7. **Label the 10mL (white cap) milk vials** with the sample date, the cow or goat ID/name, and quarter/or half, if applicable. We will provide labels that have a place for this information.
8. Fill the white cap 10mL vial 2/3 full. **Do not touch inner surface of vial, cap or top, or set the cap down.**
9. After attaching lid, **look for obvious contamination (debris) in the milk sample. Throw away the vial and resample** the teat if the sample is bad.
10. **Freeze samples** for bacterial culturing immediately.

All samples should be shipped NEXT DAY AIR or OVERNIGHT via FedEx or UPS. Place all frozen samples with the gel packs into the cooler provided, tape box closed, attach shipping label, and take to the nearest UPS or FedEx store. Please call (877) 398-1360 or email info@udderhealth.com with any questions or concerns.