

FARMER GUIDE

COLLECTING AND TRANSPORTING SAMPLES

Total Bacterial Count (TBC)/Bactoscan Investigation	Mastitis Bacteriology Investigation	Somatic Cell Counts
▼ KIT REQUIRED		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Polystyrene box, ice packs, sterile sample pots (20ml minimum), bulk tank dippers.Ice packs must be frozen for at least 24 hours prior to sampling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sterile sample pots, marker pen and labels for pots, gloves, packaging for postage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sample pots containing preservative, bulk tank dippers, marker pen and labels for pots, packaging for postage
▼ POTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">One sample per tank clearly marked with farm name and date/time of sampling (no preservative required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">One pot per quarter sampled (no preservative required)Clearly mark pot with cow and quarter ID and date of samplingMark whether clinical case or high cell count sample and whether before or after treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">One pot per samplePot must contain preservative
▼ TAKING THE SAMPLE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Agitate tank for 2-3 minutes.Ensure temperature is below 4°C.Use sterile dipper or dip pot into tank using clean gloved hand.Fill the sample pot, at least 20ml is required.Keep sample clean and replace lid as soon as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sterile milk sampling for bacteriology instructions on reverse.Samples should be collected immediately before milking or as a separate procedure during the day.The same procedure should be followed for both clinical mastitis cases and sampling of high cell count cows for bacteriology.The California Mastitis test (CMT) is a useful tool to check which quarter (s) require sampling from a high cell count cow and to check the cell count at the time of the actual sampling.keep sample clean and replace lid as soon as possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Collect from mixed milk, on one milking.Agitate milk sample for 15 seconds.Allow the milk down the line.Milk meters used in clean line will take samples throughout milking which can then be collected in pots. Clearly identify sample (s). <p>Bulk Sample:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Agitate bulk tank for at least 2 minutes.Use clean dipper. Clearly identify sample (s).Keep sample clean and replace lid as soon
▼ STORAGE OF SAMPLE		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Send sample as soon as possible after collection, refrigerate packaged sample until sending.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clinical mastitis cases can be frozen if not being immediately posted. High cell count samples should be refrigerated only and sent as soon as possible.No preservative is required, glycerol can be added to frozen samples.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Refrigerate sample until sending. The preservative must be in the pot.
▼ SENDING		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Place pots in polystyrene box between the 2 ice packs.Fill spaces with polystyrene chips.Complete and include paperwork.Send next day delivery or first class depending on lab requirements. Do not post samples on a friday unless the lab can receive them	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Package samples to prevent leakage and pack securely in a boxComplete and include paperworkSend next day delivery or first class to lab. Do not post samples on a friday unless the lab can receive them on Saturday.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Package securely to prevent leakage and pack securely in a boxPaperwork- Post sample to lab or arrange collection