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## **MASTITIS CONTROL AND MILK HYGIENE SECTION**

### **SAMPLES ARE RECEIVED FOR MASTITIS AND MILK QUALITY CONTROL**

#### **MASTITIS**

The milk hygiene section performs tests on bovine milk samples to monitor the udder health of an individual cow or herd. The tests are used to diagnose subclinical and clinical mastitis in dairy cows. Mastitis causing pathogens such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus agalactiae* and other mastitis causing pathogens are identified. Antibigrams are performed and used to test an isolated organism's susceptibility / resistance to a panel of antibiotics, which can assist with effective treatment.

#### **Raw milk: Composite samples and quarter samples**

- Somatic cell counts
- Culture
- Bacterial identification
- Antibigram

#### **Clinical and frozen samples**

- Culture
- Bacterial identification
- Antibigram

#### **Points to note when submitting the above samples to the laboratory**

- Please phone the milk hygiene section in advance to make an appointment for submission of samples.
- Samples should arrive at the laboratory by 9:00 am.
- Sample tubes or vials should be numbered and arranged sequentially in the sample box.



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- Samples must be submitted with a cow identification sheet that is in correlation with the tube or vial sequence.
- The current submission form must be comprehensively completed and submitted with samples.
- Sample vials with a preservative are provided by the laboratory for somatic cell counts only.
- Samples **must** be collected aseptically, especially when samples are cultured for bacterial identification.
- Samples should be kept cool at all times before submission.

### **QUALITY CONTROL**

The aim of the Bulk milk quality test is to indicate the quality and safety of the milk and milk products for human consumption. Bovine milk samples are usually taken from a bulk tank for the following tests performed in the laboratory:

- Somatic cell counts
- Total bacterial count
- Enumeration of Coliforms
- Enumeration of *Escherichia coli*
- Antibiotic residue test
- *Brucella abortus* (Milk Ring Test)

### **Test Fees**

Please refer to the current test and fees list or contact the laboratory for fees on tests requested.

### **Section Contact Details**

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