

Aseptic milk sampling

Why do we need to collect milk samples aseptically?

To get accurate diagnosis of bacteria and avoid:

- Contamination of the sample
- Misleading results
- Wasting time
- Wasting money

Equipment

- Disposable gloves
- Surgical spirit
- Cotton wool
- Sterile sample pot
- Marker pen

How to collect a sample



1

Put clean gloves on.

Clean teats and udder with warm water and dry thoroughly. Any bits of dirt should be removed.



2

Pre-dip or disinfect teats with rapid-action disinfectant, leave for 30 seconds and wipe dry.



3

Wipe teats with cotton wool soaked in surgical spirit.

Strip the teat five times and wipe again with surgical spirit.



Do not touch the teats with dirty hands after this stage; if any dirt is splashed onto the udder, repeat the above steps before taking a sample.



4

Strip the teat four times horizontally into the sterile pot – the pot does not need to be filled.



5

Put the lid on straight away and label with cow ID, quarter and date.

For further information on mastitis, QuarterPRO and the Mastitis Control Plan, visit ahdb.org.uk/mastitis

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