



Kansas State Veterinary
DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

Collecting samples for milk culture

Take your time & be extra careful. If you contaminate the sample the culture results will be inconclusive & will need to be done over.

Using a new set of gloves for each cow will help prevent cross contamination.

1. Remove the first 2-3 squirts from each teat onto the ground.
2. Pre-dip each teat, leaving the pre-dip on for at least 30 seconds.
3. Dry teats with an individual paper towel.
4. Scrub each teat end with an alcohol-soaked cotton ball.

It is very important to scrub the teats farthest away from you first, then scrub the near teats.

How to know if the teats are clean? The alcohol swabs should show no signs of dirt or teat dip.

When collecting the milk samples, you should sample the closest teats first and the farthest away last. (this prevents touching/contaminating the near teats before sampling)

DO NOT hold the collection container directly under the udder. Hold the vial horizontally and direct milk flow into the vial to avoid foreign particles falling into the bag.

Only a small amount of milk is needed—2-4 squirts per teat.

Milk from all four quarters should be collected in the same container (composite sample) unless culture for a particular quarter only is desired.

If you have questions, please contact KSVDL Client Care at 866-512-5650 or clientcare@vet.k-state.edu.