



RMAC MILK TESTING INSTRUCTIONS & INFORMATION

Samples are to be collected the second (2nd) Tuesday of each month (even if you will be delivering your sample to the lab on Wednesday – we want all samples the same age). They must be chilled, packaged and ready for pickup. Please remember to send your check (made out to Microbial Research, Inc) for the requested tests according to the current price list along with your sample. If you haven't already sent a signed waiver to the lab, please include that in your shipment.

Milk will be tested for: Standard Plate Count, Total Coliforms, *Salmonella* & *E. coli* O157. If you want to request additional tests, please add that to your total amount. (See test price sheet.)

Individual results will be emailed to each farm.

Procedure

- Clean and dry the udders and teats thoroughly
- Strip out the first few squirts of milk
- Milk as usual

Collecting a Milk Sample

Stir the milk (from a tank or jar) with a sterile ladle using a down-and-up movement, vigorously, for at least 30 seconds.

Check the temperature of the milk. It should be 40°F or lower.

- Record the date, time, milk temperature (frozen, cold, cool, warm), type (cow/goat) and farm name on the vials.

Using a sterile dipper, rinse the dipper in the milk twice before collecting the sample. Fill the dipper a third time and remove it from the tank. Pour the milk into the sample vials, filling it up to the line. Do not overfill.

Refrigerate the milk samples(s) immediately. Keep the sample(s) refrigerated until they are sent to the laboratory.

DO NOT freeze the samples!

Be sure you have signed the waiver form for the lab before submitting your first sample.

Shipping Milk Samples

Milk samples must be shipped in a "triple-package system".





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The **Primary Container** is the "sample" container (plastic vial) and is leak-proof when closed completely. The primary containers are placed in a Zip lock bag (the Zip Lock bag becomes the **secondary container**). Put one vial per Zip lock bag. The Zip lock bag must also contain enough absorbent material (paper towels) to absorb all the contents of the tubes if a leak occurs. The Zip lock bag(s) with the vials are put in a Styrofoam container (the Styrofoam cooler becomes the **tertiary container**). The cold pack(s) should be placed between the secondary container and the tertiary containers - put the cold pack(s) in the cooler, but NOT in the zip lock bag with the samples. Fill the empty space in the cooler with some type of packing to prevent the contents from moving around – newspaper is shown, but Styrofoam pellets or bubble wrap work too.

This is all placed in an **outer container** (cardboard box).

The outer container is labeled with the Preprinted Waybills, which your ground carrier should have or will have when they pick up on the farm.

Do not ship unprotected Styrofoam containers! Styrofoam shipping containers must be placed inside a cardboard container.

The entire kit is sent to Microbial Research via overnight carrier of your choice (FEDEX, USPS, etc). You need to schedule your on-farm pickup on **MONDAY** for Tuesday pickup, or drop it off at the post office/shipping office in a nearby town on **TUESDAY**. Please specify overnight shipping.

Affix the label on your sealed package and have it ready for pick-up. Packaging that is done incorrectly may result in the samples not being delivered and returned by the carrier. Address the package to:

Microbial Research, Inc.
2290 E Prospect Road, Suite #1
Fort Collins, CO 80525
970-221-4695

