

SAMPLING COLLECTION GUIDELINES

for Milk Culture, Pregnancy, Bovine Viral Diarrhea, Johne's and Bovine Leukosis Virus

**When taking a sample for culture, do not use a metered or preserved sample. You may however use a metered or preserved sample for pregnancy testing.*

COLLECTING BLOOD SAMPLES

- Supplies needed**
- Red top blood tube
 - Transfer needle
 - Vacutainer holder
 - Sharpie marker

1. Label the blood tube with animal ID.
2. Screw the transfer needle to the Vacutainer holder.
3. Insert the tube into the other end of the needle holder until the stopper touches the back portion of the needle. *Do not puncture the stopper.*



4. TO INSERT THE NEEDLE IN COWS:

Lift the cow's tail and locate an insertion point at the midline of the underside, about 3 to 6 inches from the base of the tail. Insert the needle about one inch, perpendicular to the tail.

TO INSERT THE NEEDLE IN GOATS:

Find the jugular vein by pressing on the left side of the goat's throat near the bottom of the neck. The vein pops up slightly when you press on it. Insert the needle upward into the skin and vein at an angle nearly parallel to the vein.

5. Blood will appear at the junction of the stopper and the back portion of the needle when the vein is punctured. Once blood is visible, push the tube onto the needle. *To avoid losing vacuum, be sure to keep the needle under the skin while you are collecting the blood.*
6. After collecting blood, withdraw the needle from the skin and remove the tube from the tube holder.
7. Refrigerate blood samples immediately after collection. *Do not freeze blood samples.*

COLLECTING MILK SAMPLES

- Supplies needed**
- 70% alcohol
 - Cotton gauze
 - Teat dip
 - Paper towels
 - Sharpie marker

1. Label the sample tube with animal ID and the quarter being sampled.



2. Pre-dip each teat with teat dip and allow at least 30 seconds of contact. Dry the teats thoroughly, especially the teat ends, with paper towels.
3. Scrub the teat ends with alcohol-soaked gauze.
4. Fore-strip each teat, discarding the first few streams of milk.



Photos courtesy of the University of Minnesota

5. Remove the cap from the milk tube. Keep the tube at a 45-degree angle and do not touch the teat end with the tube. Collect 1 to 3 streams of milk and fill the tube no more than 1/2 to 3/4 full. *Do not overfill the tube.*

IF THE SAMPLE CONTAINS PRESERVATIVE*:

Make sure the sample tube contains the preservative. Shake the sample vigorously until the preservative tablet is dissolved.

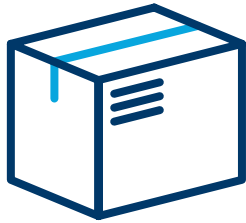
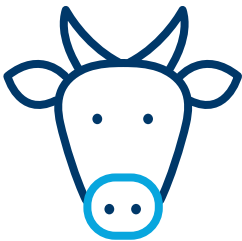
METER COLLECTION*:

Transfer milk up to the fill line on the tube.

** Not for culture*

6. Refrigerate or freeze milk samples until ready to send.

SHIPPING BLOOD AND MILK SAMPLES



SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Shipping box
(samples cannot be sent in a padded envelope)
- Ice pack
- Zip-close plastic bags
- Paper towels
- Bubble wrap or newspaper

- 1.** Bundle samples together (maximum of 10 samples per bundle) and cover with absorbent paper towels or newspaper. Place the samples in a zip-close plastic bag.
- 2.** Place the bag inside a shipping box with an ice pack. To protect the samples during transportation, pack with bubble wrap or newspaper so the sample bag fits snugly in the box.
- 3.** Place all documents inside a separate zip-close bag and place inside the shipping box.

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Overnight shipping is required for samples that are shipped on ice packs. Samples may be shipped by FedEx, UPS, USPS, another delivery service, or personal delivery. Be aware of holidays and weekends on shipping schedules before sending packages by commercial carriers.

Ship to:

Animal Health International Diagnostic Lab
26357 Road 108
Tulare, CA 93274

For more information:

Animal Health International Diagnostic Lab
559.372.5669
lab@animalhealthinternational.com

