

## **STERILE MILK SAMPLE COLLECTION**

It is essential that sterile milk samples are collected to identify the cause of clinical mastitis or high cell counts.

If this procedure is not followed then the results will be of no benefit and a waste of time and money.

You **MUST** use sterile sample pots. Pots that are used for collecting cell count samples are not acceptable as they contain preservatives which kill the bacteria that the lab needs to grow.

### **METHOD OF COLLECTION**

1. If the teat is dirty, wash and dry. If visibly clean then dry wipe with paper towel.
2. Discard three squirts of foremilk from each quarter/s to be sampled.
3. Coat the teat with a pre dip [best] or post dip and allow a contact time of 20 seconds and wipe dry with paper towel.
4. Put on a clean pair of gloves
5. Scrub the end of the teat/s with cotton wool soaked in surgical spirit so that the end of the teat is spotless.
6. Take the top off the sample bottle and hold it at a 45 degree angle and squirt one stream of milk into the bottle making sure that you do not touch the end of the teat.
7. Replace the top of the bottle
8. Label with Cow number, quarter/s, farm and date
9. If there is any doubt about the sterility of the sample, repeat the entire procedure again.
10. You can freeze the samples until you despatch to the lab.
11. When sending samples, post on a Monday or Tuesday to make sure that they do not get delayed. Samples should be packed in ice packs in a polystyrene container to ensure they remain cool from post to lab.