

# Dairy Herd BVD and Bulk Tank Milk Sample Collection Procedure



Milk from the bulk tank or string samples can be used to screen herds for the presence of a persistently infected (PI) BVD animal in the milking string. Bulk tank samples can be taken from up to 3500 cows and should be repeated quarterly to make sure all cows are represented in the milking string throughout the year. Sample should be from a well-agitated bulk tank and from the first milking. When string sampling, pens should be under 400 head and all animals should be inventoried accurately to make sure if a positive sample is found, the proper cows can be tested individually to find a PI. Preserved samples may be used for testing and shipped without icepacks. Bulk tank/string sample testing is an excellent tool to monitor and maintain your herd free of adult PIs.

## Materials Needed:

1. Approximately 10 ml of milk.
2. Leak proof plastic container.
3. Shipping container with ice packs.

*Note: Ice packs are not necessary if you are shipping preserved milk.*

## Collection Procedure:

1. Write date and # of animals on tube.
2. Ideally collect from 1st milking and maintain records of cows in string.
3. Include sample from hospital and fresh pens.
4. Maintain collected samples in a cooler with ice packs or in freezer prior to shipment.

*Note: Ice packs are not necessary if you are shipping preserved milk.*

5. Samples can be frozen right after collection to accommodate multiple samples on multiple days.
6. Include Client Information and Sample Submission Form with each shipment.