

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. When string sampling, 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.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Approximately 10 ml of milk (*fresh, frozen or preserved*).
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. Maintain records of cows in herd/strings.
Tip: Sample any cows entering or leaving herd/ 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.

TIME-SAVING TIP

Bulk tank and string samples can be submitted at the same time. If bulk tank sample is negative, string samples are discarded. If bulk tank samples are positive, string samples can be processed the next day.

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