

Milk Quality Management Protocol: Screening for Milk Quality

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Screening for Milk Quality - Sampling Protocol:

Performing screening for milk quality using the PortaSCC[®] milk test or other on-farm mastitis test monthly/bimonthly will inform you of your herd's somatic cell count and give you an idea of the infection status of the herd.

Screening Cows:

1. Randomly select 10% of your pen/group/herd for screening.
2. Take an equal volume of milk from each quarter of the cow and milk it into the same vial to form a composite sample.
3. Test the composite milk sample to determine the composite somatic cell count from each cow being tested.
4. Retest the individual quarters of cows with composite sample somatic cell count values greater than or equal to 200,000 cells/mL.
5. Culture the milk samples greater than or equal to 200,000 cells/mL for bacterial identification.

Screening Groups:

1. Screen somatic cell counts for milking groups using a commercially available in-line sampling device to collect a group sample.
2. In-line milk samples with somatic cell count values greater than or equal to 200,000 cells/mL indicates that either one or several cows in the group have inflammation of the udder and possible infection.
3. Culture the in-line milk sample for bacterial identification if somatic cell exceeds 200,000 cells/mL.
4. Test individual cows in group to identify source(s) of high somatic cell counts