Aseptic Milk Sample Collection

Collect the following supplies:
- Clean, disposable gloves
- Waterproof marking pen
- Milk sample vials
- Cotton balls or pads soaked in 70% alcohol
- Cooler with ice or freezer packs
- Germicidal teat dip
- Paper or cloth towels

Clean sampling technique must be used to collect milk samples for culture. Follow these instructions to avoid contamination.

1. Collect the following supplies:
2. Put on clean gloves. Label the sample vial with the date, cow ID and quarter to be sampled. RF = right front, LF = left front, RR = right rear, LR = left rear.
3. Brush off any loose manure, dirt or bedding particles from the udder and teats. Pre-dip with an effective germicidal teat dip, leaving the dip on for 30 seconds.
4. Wipe each teat dry with a single-use paper or cloth towel, paying particular attention to the teat end. Be sure there is no teat dip left on the teats.
5. Discard 3-4 streams of milk onto the floor.
6. Scrub teat ends vigorously for 10-15 seconds using an alcohol-soaked cotton ball. Scrub until the cotton comes away clean, using as many as needed. Scrub far teats first, followed by near teats.
7. Open the sample vial just before taking the sample. Do not touch the inside of the vial or lid. Holding the vial at an angle, direct streams of milk into the vial without touching the teat end. Fill the vial 1/3 full. Start with near teats, followed by far teats.
8. Place the sample tube on ice or in the refrigerator. Freeze samples that will not be plated within 24 hours.

For more information:
Laboratory for Udder Health
University of Minnesota
Phone: 612-625-7053
Toll free: 800-605-8787
Email: mastlab@umn.edu
www.vdl.umn.edu/ourservices/udderhealth