

## Aseptic Milk sample Collection

The collection of an aseptic milk sample from cases of clinical mastitis and from CMT-positive quarters in high somatic cell count cows is essential to obtain an accurate bacteriological diagnosis. Poor sampling technique leads to contamination and misleading results, wasting time and money.

You will require a pair of disposable gloves, California Mastitis Test paddle and liquid, surgical spirit and cotton wool, sterile Universal sample pots and an indelible marker pen.



Prior to sampling, ensure that the teats and udder are washed with clean water and dried thoroughly if very dirty. The teats should be **pre-dipped** or sprayed with a rapid acting disinfectant and wiped dry after 20 to 30 seconds.



Thoroughly clean and **disinfect** the teat using a cotton wool swab soaked in surgical spirit and allow to dry. Discard 4-6 squirts of milk. Repeat both steps again, making sure the teat end is scrubbed and disinfected. Collect the milk sample holding the sampling pot as **horizontally** as possible – only 2-3 squirts of milk is required – **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO FILL UP THE POT!** Label the sample with cow ID, quarter and date.