

Instructions for taking milk samples

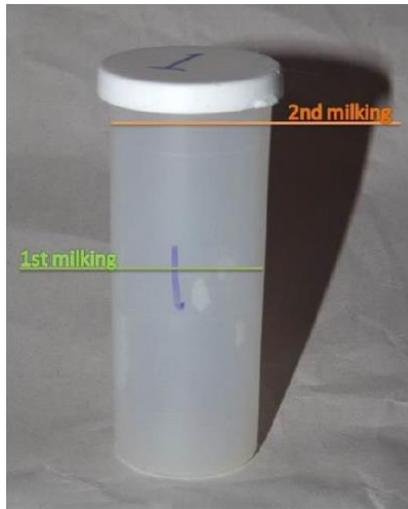
page 1 of 2



Each doe must have her own bottle. Mark the bottle with that does number she was assigned on the barn sheet. (exp. 1, 2, 3 etc.)

When taking milk samples you first need to clean the udder to remove all the dirt, loose hair etc. Then milk into a clean bucket. It is best to use a stainless steel bucket as the butterfat will sometimes stick to a plastic one. (you do not want to mix the does milk before you take a sample, and don't filter the milk before you take a sample)

It is easier to use a small steel ladle to get the milk sample, but a small steel $\frac{1}{4}$ cup measuring cup will work also. Stir the milk slowly with the ladle or measuring cup a couple times around the bucket. Do NOT whip or stir hard as it will break the butterfat up and give a false reading. Then take enough milk to fill the milk test bottle $\frac{1}{2}$ full, on the second milking do the same to fill the bottle. After adding milk to the bottle, gently rock the bottle back and forth a couple times to mix the preservative in with the milk. Do NOT refrigerate.



It is best to do your milk test so you can mail the sample as soon as possible after the last milking. The preservative will keep the milk for a few days, but you do not want it sitting in the Post Office over the week end. Figure how long it will take for the samples to get to the lab and mail accordingly.

To get your milk sample ready for shipping, there are a few ways you can do it.

One example is to tape the lid onto the bottle so that it won't come off, and place it into a Ziploc bag.

Then place your sample(s) into a small box. If you have just one to three samples, they will fit into a bank check box.

Take your barn sheet and put it in a Ziploc to protect it from moisture and lay it on top of the bottles.