

Bulk milk sample collection

These are instructions for farmers wishing to collect their own bulk tank milk samples for serology testing. The same sample can be used to test for BVD, liver fluke, and Ostertagia antibodies in the herd - see information sheet on Bulk Tank Milk Testing for detailed information.

To arrange for sample collection via the dairy factory, complete our submission form available online - fill out ALL details and send to the address provided. Please make sure that the veterinarian or supplier signs the form as indicated (this is required by the dairy companies as authorisation for them to collect on our behalf).

Top access milk vats:

- Collect the sample at least one hour after milk flow has stopped, with milk stirrer on for at least this period.
- Dip a clean container into milk, a few centimetres below the surface and collect at least 50mL.
- Pour 10mL into a clean screw cap pottle, and courier sample to Awanui Veterinary same day. Place sample in fridge until collected by courier and include an ice pack with samples when couriating to the laboratory.
- Enclose a signed bulk tank milk submission form with the sample.

Sealed milk vats

- Wait at least one hour after milk flow has stopped with milk stirrer on for at least this period.
- Open milk valve so that at least 2 litres of milk flows out. Do not sample from this milk as it is from an area of dead space and isn't representative.
- Collect another litre into a separate container and pour at least 10mL of this in to a screw cap pottle.
- Courier sample to Awanui Veterinary that day with a freezer pack included. Place sample in fridge until the courier collects it.
- Enclose a signed bulk tank milk submission form with the sample.

Samples should be refrigerated until tested, or stored at -20°C if testing is delayed for more than 1 -2 days.

