

Raw Drinking Milk Microbiological Testing - CRIB SHEET

Updated Sep 2020

	Regulatory Requirement		Recommended Best Practice	
	Maximum Threshold	Frequency	Target	Frequency
** SCC raw cows milk SCC other species	<400,000cfu/ml no sampling required	1 sample per month	<100,000cfu/ml	as needed
Hygiene Indicators				
** TVC raw cows milk (3)	≤20,000cfu/ml	2 samples per month	<5,000cfu/ml (2)	Weekly
** TVC raw milk other species	≤500,000cfu/ml	2 samples per month		
** Coliforms	<100cfu/ml	FBO to determine (1)	<10cfu/ml (2)	Weekly
Pathogens				
** <i>Salmonella</i> spp	Absence in 25ml	FBO to determine (1)	Absence in 25ml	Monthly - Quarterly
** <i>Campylobacter</i> spp	Absence in 25ml	FBO to determine (1)	Absence in 25ml	Monthly - Quarterly
** <i>E.coli</i> O157:H7	Absence in 25ml	FBO to determine (1)	Absence in 25ml	Monthly - Quarterly
** <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> (4)	<100 cfu/ml	FBO to determine (1)	Absence in 25ml	Monthly - Quarterly
** Coagulase +ve staphylococci	≤20 cfu/ml	FBO to determine (1)	≤20 cfu/ml	Monthly - Quarterly
Shelf-Life Testing: up to 4 days				
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> (4)	<100 cfu/ml	at end of shelf-life	Absence in 25ml	at end of shelf-life
Shelf-Life Testing: 5 days or longer				
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> (4)	Absence in 25ml AND <100 cfu/ml	at start of shelf-life at end of shelf-life	Absence in 25ml at start <i>and</i> end of shelf-life	
Water Testing: private supply				
** TVC at 22C & 37C	no abnormal change	FBO to determine (1)		
** Coliforms, <i>E.coli</i> , Enterococci, <i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	0/100ml	FBO to determine (1)		
Water Testing: mains				
	as above	FBO to determine (1)		

NOTES:

(1) "FBO to determine" means that the Food Business Operator must decide the frequency of testing once they have implemented their Food Safety Management System and performed sufficient verification testing to determine the appropriate testing schedule based on the risk of their system. It is recommended initially to perform tests more frequently (as a minimum following the Recommended Best Practice). Over time, where results consistently fall well below the maximum regulatory requirement, and ideally within / close to the Best Practice target, then an FBO could decide if reducing frequency was appropriate. Any high readings or fails, or with any production system changes (e.g. turn-out or freshly calved heifers in the parlour) should trigger an immediate increase in frequency until results demonstrate controls are working. Test *Listeria* more frequently when feeding silage, especially if of poor quality.

(2) Recommended Best Practice thresholds are equivalent to the Raw Milk Institute standards in the US and have proven consistently achievable by listed RAWMI dairy farmers.

(3) Bactoscan can be used in place of TVC, but FBOs must make the conversion and record the result as a TVC equivalent in their FSMS. Contact Christine Page who can send you the conversion spreadsheet.

(4) *Listeria monocytogenes* is the pathogen to which the limit applies but ask the lab to test for *Listeria* species.

New Producers

Registration to become a RDM producer requires two consecutive months of compliant test results for all tests marked **

All farms selling RDM must be officially TB free and Brucellosis (BR) free.

Raw milk sold to a processor is usually tested by the processor for BR quarterly but if not then APHA will contact FBOs about testing.

Raw milk must not contain any antibiotic residues.

Compiled by Christine Page (E&OE), Smiling Tree Farm