

We need your milk samples so we can test for *Mycoplasma bovis*

What we are doing

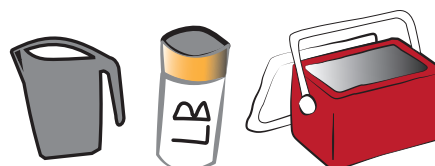
The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is carrying out a nationwide surveillance programme to find out if *Mycoplasma bovis* is present anywhere else in the country. Before any long-term decisions can be made, we need to have a good understanding of where the disease is.

As part of that programme, all dairy companies are assisting with a nation-wide surveillance programme that involves monitoring herds for any *Mycoplasma bovis* infection by testing milk from mastitis, lame and other sick cows.

From your farm, we need you to collect two pooled milk samples at 14-day intervals from mastitis, lame or otherwise sick cows, but not colostrum cows unless they have been treated for mastitis.

Tools

- **Jug** – for collecting and mixing stripped milk.
- **Labelled orange sample vials** – please check that your supplier number is correct. Note: each sample vial contains a small amount of blue bronopol preservative – like herd-test samples. Blue bronopol can be a mild irritant on mucous membranes so vials should be held away from your face when opening.
- **Polystyrene box with ice pack to keep temperature stable** – freeze or chill the ice pack prior to use.



Taking the samples

When?

- On two occasions at 14-day intervals.
- During the last milking before scheduled tanker pick-up (don't combine from multiple milkings).

What?

- A single pooled milk sample from all 4 quarters of mastitis and other sick or lame cows not being milked into the vat.
- If you have no sick cows on your scheduled collection, please still present an empty sample in your polystyrene box.

How?

- Three squirts from each quarter into the jug. Milk from all cows in sick cow herd is pooled into the same jug.
- Once all sick or treated cows are sampled, swirl jug and pour into orange sample vial (at least $\frac{3}{4}$ full).
- Check that your supplier number is correctly recorded on the label and write date on label.
- It's important that the samples are kept as clean as practically possible, with minimal contamination.
- Place sample in chilly bin with cold or frozen slicker pack.
- Leave sample in polystyrene box by vat outlet for collection by tanker driver. Place a weight (e.g. stone) on the lid.
- Tip out left-over milk and clean the jug ready for the next collection in 14 days.



For any queries
contact your
Dairy Company
Area Manager.