



Wisconsin Veterinary
Diagnostic Laboratory
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Bacterial Culture of Colostrum, Calf Milk Replacer (CMR) and Waste Milk Sampling Guidelines

- Producers should wear disposable gloves to prevent contamination of the waste milk, CMR or colostrum with bacteria.
- Producers should plan on collecting 5 samples of pasteurized waste milk.
 - Sample 1: Immediately before pasteurization
 - Sample 2: Immediately post-pasteurization
 - Sample 3: The first calf fed
 - Sample 4: The middle calf fed
 - Sample 5: The last calf fed
- Producers should plan on collecting 3 samples of reconstituted CMR.
 - Sample 1: The first calf fed
 - Sample 2: The middle calf fed
 - Sample 3: The last calf fed
- Colostrum should be collected just before it is fed to newborn calves.
- Colostrum, reconstituted CMR or waste milk samples should be collected in a leak proof vial. Vials (2 oz translucent locktop) can be purchased from Nelson Jameson (1-800-826-8302). The catalog number is 170-3206.
- Fill the leak proof vial $\frac{1}{2}$ full with milk, reconstituted CMR or colostrum.
- Label the vial. Each vial should have the date of collection and the sample identity written on it.
- Samples should be placed in a household freezer **immediately** after collection. Samples can remain in the freezer for up to 30 days before submission to the laboratory.

Shipping Requirements

- Veterinarians should completely fill out the WVDL Submission Form. An electronic copy is available at www.wvdl.wisc.edu. Click on the forms link to download the submission form. Be sure to check the Aerobic/Coliform/E. coli count test box and indicate the appropriate sample type (colostrum, CMR or waste milk) as this determines the dilution set up.
- Package the samples with a sufficient number of ice packs to ensure they remain frozen during shipment. Warm samples will be rejected.
- Send the samples to the WVDL **Barron** Lab by the most expeditious means. The laboratory should receive the samples within 24-36 hours.
- Clients should schedule shipments to avoid weekend and holiday delivery of samples to the laboratory.