



# WVS MILK QUALITY LAB

95 S Harris Ave Suite 203/PO Box 569

Waupun WI 53963

Phone 920-324-3831

e-mail [milklab@waupunvet.com](mailto:milklab@waupunvet.com)

Producer Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Samples \_\_\_\_\_ Phone / Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Clinic/Vet/Milk Plant \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Routine Culture

Prototheca

Mycoplasma

## Culture Results

Bacteria Isolated	None	Colony Count		
		Low	Medium	High
<b>Contagious</b>				
Streptococcus agalactia _____		<50	50-200	>200
Staphlococcus aureus _____		<50	50-150	>150
Mycoplasma _____		1	2-5	>5
<b>Environmentals</b>				
Streptococcus species _____		<500	500-1200	>1200
Staphlococcus species _____		<300	300-500	>500
Coliforms _____		<100	100-400	>400
Prototheca _____				

Contaminated Sample \_\_\_\_\_ Retest Immediately

Contagious bacteria need immediate attention. These bacteria spread rapidly through a dairy herd and cause serious milk quality problems as large economic losses.

**Streptococcus agalactia:** The most contagious bacteria that causes mastitis. Can be successfully treated and eradicated through proper management. Cultures are needed to identify all positive cows. Good functioning milking equipment and good milking practices are critical to the eradication.

**Staphlococcus aureus:** A contagious bacteria that causes chronic mastitis. This is a very serious bacteria treatment is not very successful. Control is accomplished by segregation or culling. Cultures are needed to identify all the infected cows. This problem takes significant time to control in a dairy herd. Properly functioning milking equipment and good milking practices are critical to its control.

**Mycoplasma:** This is the newest and most significant bacteria to affect the Midwest dairies. This bacteria is very contagious and is not treatable. Culling is the only solution. This bacteria is most often transferred during intramammary therapy. Properly functioning milking equipment and good milking practices are critical to its control.

Environmental bacteria can be from a wide variety of sources. The most common is milking dirty teats. Other common causes are poor housing, poor yards and pastures, poor milking equipment function, and poor milking practices. Excess water usage is also a common source of environmental bacteria. Some other reasons for high environmentals are poor cooling of the milk in the bulk tank and poor milk equipment sanitation. A complete evaluation is needed to rule out all the possible causes.

**Contaminated sample:** This is either from improper collection of the sample or poor handling of the sample from the farm to the laboratory. When a sample is contaminated, it should be redone as soon as possible.

The bulk tank culture is an important management tool. It simply shows what population of bacteria are present in the dairy herd. These bacteria are either what the cow is being exposed to or what they are infected with. The bulk tank culture does not represent the severity of mastitis, but gives us a guide as to what game plan you dairy should follow. The bulk tank culture is a monitoring tool. Quality milk is best by utilizing an excellent milk quality program.