

MQT Lab – Splitting a Farm Bulk Tank Sample

If a split sample is needed, the producer must contact their Field Representative.

The Field Rep. will need:

- Sanitized dipper
- 10 oz. sterile milk sample bottle
- Three sterile 3 oz. milk sample bottle
- Permanent marker

Agitate the bulk tank for at least 10 minutes according to tank manufacturer's instructions.

Label the 3 oz. sterile milk sample bottles with a permanent marker. Mark the producer's identification number on the top of each bottle.

Open each sterile sample bottle without touching the inside of the bottle or the underside of the lid.

Use a sanitized sample dipper to transfer milk from the bulk tank to a sterile 10 oz. sample bottle. Fill the dipper well and dump the milk back in the bulk tank at least three times to completely clear all sanitizer from the dipper.

Fill the 10 oz. sterile sample bottle at least $\frac{3}{4}$ full or to the appropriate fill line.

Thoroughly mix the original 10 oz. bottle by shaking the sample 25 times in 7 seconds with a one foot movement, per FDA guidelines for split sampling.

Immediately pour the milk into the separate 3 oz. milk sample bottles. Fill each bottle $\frac{3}{4}$ full or to the fill line. Close the lid without touching the inside of the bottle or the underside of the lid.

Send one sample to MQT, one sample to the Market Administrator (MA) and one sample to the lab of your choice. MQT and MA samples can be sent with your field representative to the dairy plant where they will be picked up by sample transportation specialist. Samples being shipped should be sent for overnight delivery. The sample should be placed in a sealed plastic bag and be packed in ice water in a Styrofoam cooler.