



Fiji DAIRYNOTE P3 – DIY Test for Mastitis Detection

The Rapid Mastitis Test (RMT) described here is a ‘Do It Yourself’ (DIY) test that can determine the presence of mastitis in milk (i.e. high Somatic Cell Count or ‘SCC’). It uses readily available Sunlight dishwashing detergent and can be used on individual milk samples.

Recipe and Method

- Create the reagent by mixing one-part Sunlight detergent (20%) with four parts potable water (80%)
- Position your paddle (pictured right, in blue) under the cow’s udder
- Milk 2-3mls of milk from each teat into each section of the paddle (the milk should be from the third or fourth squirts)
- Look at the milk to see if there is any visible lumps or discolouration – if so, your animal will need treatment for clinical mastitis, potentially with antibiotics
- If there are no visible signs of clinical mastitis, add 2mls of the detergent/water mix to the fresh raw milk in the paddle
- Move your paddle around to allow the solution to mix with the milk
- With a high SCC, a liquid resembling ‘snot’ will appear in your tested milk. If this occurs, safely discard the milk and do not send it for sale. Check again daily.
- Carry this test out once a week on your herd

