

Protocol for identifying the source of bulk tank failures

Failing a milk buyer's antibiotic test is a stressful experience for any milk producer. However, it is essential to focus on identifying the problem and preventing any repetition. Whatever the possible cause – plant failure, animal identification error etc. – unless the problem is correctly identified and remedied before the next milking, additional failures are likely.

Essential steps to follow:

A) Keep an open mind and ask the right questions

B) Check the obvious:

- Look for leaking valves in parlour?
- Were treated cows correctly identified at previous milking etc?

In many cases, the cause will be obvious! However, if not.....

C) Commence immediate batch testing of all cows in milk:

1. Take a clearly marked composite sample from each cow.
2. Ensure the sample is clearly marked with cow's ID
3. Divide the sample pots into batches of (say) 10 – 20 cows, depending on herd size.
4. Add ½ contents of each sample pot into a vessel large enough to take each batch. (Retain the remaining ½ samples.) Carefully record which milk sample are in each batch.
5. Test each batch with Delvotest®
6. If one of more batches give a 'positive' test result, test the individual cows retained in that batch to determine which is the culprit(s)

For additional help or advice,

Please call Millwood Products on 01225 460 234