

## Sampling Mastitis Cows for Culture

**Individual quarter samples** are the most sensitive way to determine what kind of mastitis a cow has. For screening fresh cows and heifers for *Mycoplasma* and *Staph aureus*, composite samples of all 4 quarters should be taken.

1. **Wipe** any debris off the teat to be sampled.
2. **Forestrip 3 streams** of milk from the teat to be sampled to remove contaminated milk from the teat canal. This will help prevent contaminated samples.
3. **Predip** with chlorine dioxide or iodine and leave it on at least 30 seconds.
4. Thoroughly dry the teat with a single-use cloth or paper towel.
5. Wipe especially the end of the teat.
6. Then scrub the teat end with swabs soaked in alcohol until the last swab comes back completely white.
7. Open the sample tube without touching the inside and hold at an angle while collecting 3 to 5 ml.
8. Holding the tube at an angle prevents any debris from falling into the sample of milk.
9. Do not fill the tube, or the top will pop open when the milk freezes.