Bacteriological tests using standard plate count of raw milk

Bacterial contamination of raw milk can generally occur from three main sources: within the udder, outside the udder, and from the surface of equipment used for milk handling.

Aim: To determine total number of bacterial count in milk at the time of pickup.

Equipment:

- 1. Milk sample
- 2. Nutrient agar
- 3. Test tubes
- 4. Pipettes
- 5. Petri dish

Procedure

- 1. Prepare 200 ml nutrient agar
- 2. Prepare of dilutions using 10 fold serial dilution



- 3. From the last three dilutions, transfer 1 ml from sample to petri dish and mix with gar medium and allow to set
- 4. Incubate the plate at 37C° for 24 h
- 5. After incubation, counting the colonies on petri plates containing between 30 and 300 colonies
- 6. Calculation:

Count of cell = Number of colonies in plate* dilution factor

= Number of bacteria /ml

Example: If 152 colonies in plate of 100.000 dilutions then the count are:

Count of cell = 15,200,000 CFU/ml

Note: CFU (colony forming unit) is a unit used to estimate the number of viable bacteria cells in a sample.

Results

Standard plate count/ml	Grading of milk
<2,00,000	Very good
2,000,00-10,00,000	Good
10,00,000-50,00,000	Fair
>50,00,000	Poor