## 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 $37 \mathrm{C}^{\circ}$ 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 $/ \mathrm{ml}$
Example: If 152 colonies in plate of 100.000 dilutions then the count are:
Count of cell $=15,200,000 \mathrm{CFU} / \mathrm{ml}$

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 |

