

California Mastitis Test

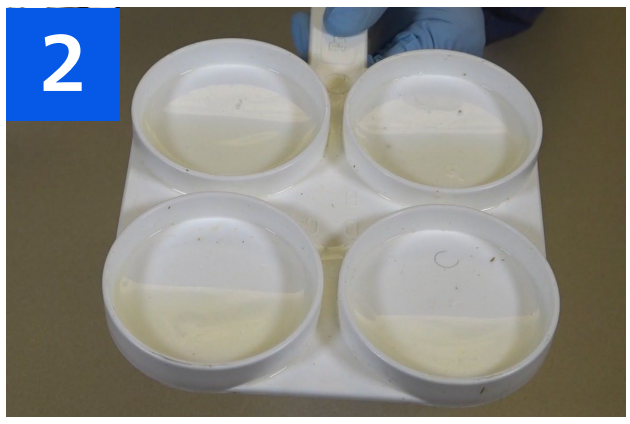
The California Mastitis Test (CMT) is a cowside test using a four-compartment paddle and a purple solution, providing a quick estimate of mastitis per quarter.

READING A CMT

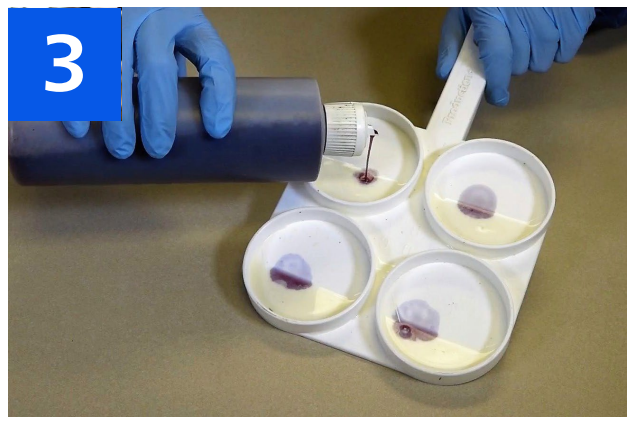
A milk sample from each quarter is collected in a clean CMT paddle with four shallow cups labeled A, B, C, D or 1, 2, 3, 4 for identification of each quarter. The CMT solution should be mixed according to package instructions. A CMT can be used to narrow down which cows should be cultured to then identify the mastitis-causing pathogen.



Squirt 2 streams of milk from each quarter into each paddle cup.



Tip the paddle to an almost vertical position to get equal amounts of milk into each cup.

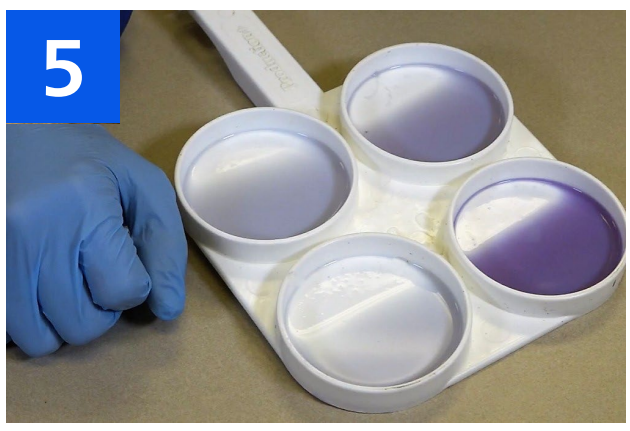


Add an equal amount of CMT solution to each paddle well for a 50-50 mixture.



Rotate the paddle in a circular motion to thoroughly mix the milk and solution. The more the solution gels, the higher the somatic cell count.

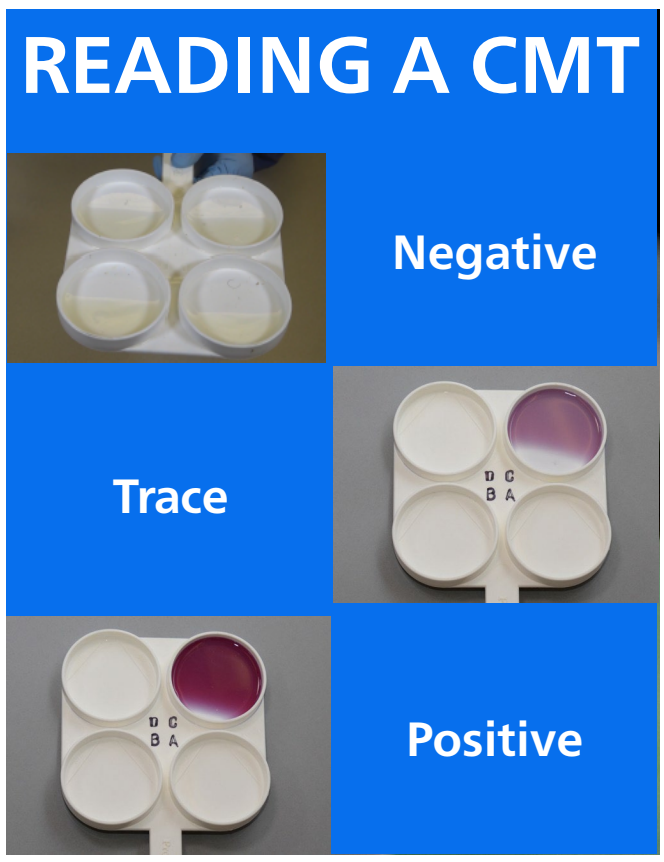
Do not mix more than 10 sec.



Read the reaction within 10-15 seconds for the most accurate results. Visible reaction will start to disappear after about 20 seconds.



Thoroughly wash the paddle with water before testing another cow.



Interpretation of CMT Scores[1]

	Description	Somatic Cell Range/Interpretation
N	**Negative:** No visual signs of thickening in the mixture and remains in liquid form.	0-200,000 Healthy Quarter
T	**Trace:** Slight thickening of the mixture and may disappear with continued paddle rotation.	<200,000 Subclinical Mastitis
1	**Weak Positive:** Distinct thickening of mixture, but no gel formation.	
2	**Distinct Positive:** Immediate thickening of mixture with a slight gel formation moving towards the center of the well as it swirls. When the swirl stops, the mixture levels out and covers the bottom of the well.	>200,000 Clinical Mastitis
3	**Strong Positive:** A gel is formed and the surface of the mixture becomes elevated, and remains after swirling has stopped.	

1 adapted from UW Milk Quality
*Test scores vary between individuals performing test, be consistent with who is interpreting

*If testing at freshening, it is recommended to test again post-fresh

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