

Staphylococcus aureus Test on LIC Herd Test Milk samples

Staphylococcus aureus (*S. aureus*) test uses standard DNA detection methodology (PCR), optimised by LIC for detection of *S. aureus* in herd test milk samples, and is a convenient way to identify subclinical animals within the herd.

Product information

- The turnaround time for results is 5-7 working days (from when the list is received from the Vet/Farmer).
- A test report will be emailed to the vet with 3 possible outcome categories:
 - '*S. aureus* Detected'
 - 'Suspect'
 - '*S. aureus* Not Detected'
- It is recommended that any animals in the 'Suspect' category should have the presence of *S. aureus* confirmed either by a follow up *S. aureus* test on a subsequent herd test or bacteriology.

Test selection

A subset of animals can be selected for testing from the herd test samples. These can be offered to LIC prior to the herd test, or animals can be selected based on their Herd Test information. A minimum of 25 animals is required to complete the testing.

- **A list selected by the vet and farmer**

This will allow selection of animals based on a combination of high SCC history, clinical history, past treatments, potential new infections or any other selection criteria relevant to the herd.

OR

- **A list selected by LIC based on agreed SCC criteria**

The SCC threshold will be decided in consultation with the vet and farmer and a maximum number of samples for testing can be specified.

LIC Validation Trials

Herd test milk samples and aseptic quarter foremilk samples were tested for *S. aureus* using PCR and results compared to bacteriology as the gold standard.

The specificity of *S. aureus* test on herd test milk was found to be 99% and sensitivity at 70% of true positive cases identified.

Limitations of the test

S. aureus is not consistently shed in the milk so at the time of the herd test it is possible that an infected cow is not shedding sufficient bacteria to allow detection. Herd test milk is a composite sample of all quarters, so the expected sensitivity will be less than individual udder quarter samples

Pricing

\$19.50 + GST per sample

How to Book testing

Bookings for this test must be booked through a vet clinic with LIC Animal Health.

Further information

For further information on *S. aureus* testing, please contact the Animal Health team at LIC on **0800 436 362** or email **testyourcows@lic.co.nz**