



## Farm Information Sheet

### California Mastitis Test

The California Mastitis Test [CMT] is a cow side test to estimate the somatic cell count of milk.



#### **BENEFITS**

- Immediate result, carried out by milker in the parlour
- An indication of high or low cell counts
- The CMT only shows changes in cell counts above 400,000
- CMT assesses the level of infection of each quarter instead of an overall udder result
- Low cost

#### **USES**

- Identify high cell count cows and quarters
- Double check individual cow cell count results
- Can confirm suspect mastitis cases
- Check cows after treatment
- Identify quarters for bacterial sampling

#### **THE TEST**

- Discard foremilk
- Draw 1 or 2 squirts from each quarter into the paddle dish
- Tip the dish to discard most of the milk
- Add an equal volume of reagent to the remaining milk
- Swirl the milk and look for a gel or slime reaction
- Record the result by quarter
- Rinse the dish before testing the next cow

<b>SCORE</b>	<b>GELLING</b>
Negative	None
1	Mild
2	Moderate
3	Heavy, almost solidifies

Record results for each animal.  
If in doubt, repeat the test immediately or at the next milking.

NB. Results can vary according to who does the test.

Always try to be consistent in your measures of milk and reagent.

