



## **SPLIT SAMPLING PROCEDURE FOR MILK ANALYSIS FOR BUTTERFAT AND PROTEIN**

1. Co-ops to have a list of independent labs accredited for milk testing.  
  
In the initial stages, Teagasc Moorepark is the most obvious such lab.
2. Co-op to nominate named member(s) of staff to deal with requests for split sampling.
3. Farmer who wants to split sample to advise co-ops accordingly in writing at least 2 weeks prior to the end of the month preceding the month in which split samples will be taken.
4. Co-op to provide a trained and competent person to take the samples in the presence of the farmer.
5. Samples to be taken at the time of or prior to collection on the days when samples on which payment will be based are taken.  
  
On these days, the co-op half of the split sample should be used as the payment sample.  
  
Sampling must continue for the minimum of the period of payment, ie a calendar month or whatever other period applies.
6. Split samples must be taken as per the recognised sample taking method provided for by Teagasc Moorepark.
7. A single dipperful must be taken which must be sufficient to fill all sample bottles (preservative tablets may be needed to be used to improve the shelf life of the samples).
8. Sample bottles must be sealed in the presence of the farmer and sample taker.
9. For analysis, at least one sample each must be sent to:
  - the co-op lab
  - the independent lab (Teagasc Moorepark in the initial stages).
10. Analysis results from the co-op and the independent lab must be sent to the farmer as soon as possible after analysis.
11. Where results show a discrepancy beyond the recognised acceptable tolerances for butterfat and protein, payment will be made on the basis of the average of the independent test and the co-op test, whether the discrepancy is positive or negative.