Farm Name and address

Standard Operating Procedure #2021-B

Water Sampling

Date

Purpose: To provide a basic procedure for all types of water sampling.

Scope: This procedure is to be followed by all workers and management.

Responsibility: Water sampling for either generic *E.coli* or potability is one of this farm’s methods of evaluating water sources. The goal is to lower the risk of microbial contamination through the combination of both the type of water source and its application to reduce that risk. Proper water sampling technique is the first step in that process. A deviation from the correct technique can result in misleading high or low bacterial counts.

Materials needed:

New, exam-type, disposable gloves

Lab provided vials for the intended testing. Note that some vials will contain a preservative. Do not “rinse” vials before taking sample.

Sharpie

New, clean plastic sealable bags

Cooler with frozen ice blocks

Water sampling rod for surface water sampling

Instant or rapid read digital thermometer (this can be attached to the vial-holding-platform of the water sampling rod

Procedure:

**Well water**:

* Turn on faucet closest to the well head and let the water run for about one minute.
* While the water is running, using the sharpie, label the sample vials with the farm name, date, and time.
* Put gloves on to clean hands.
* Unscrew vial lid, taking care not to touch the interior of the lid or the threads of the vial.
* Place open vial under the stream of water and fill to desired level.
* Cap vial.
* Turn off water.
* Place vial in a sealable plastic bag and place in cooler on ice.
* Deliver to the lab as soon as possible, within the lab’s requirements.
* Keep chilled, not frozen

**Pond water (or other surface water source):**

* Using the sharpie, label the sample vials with the farm name, date, and time.
* Put gloves on to clean hands.
* Using the water sampling rod, attach vial to the platform.
* Turn on thermometer.
* Unscrew vial lid, taking care not to touch the interior of the lid or the threads of the vial.
* Go to the area of the pond that is closest to the intake pipe of the pumping system.
* Using the water sampling rod, dip the attached vial into the center of the body of water close to the intake pipe, filling the vial to the desired level.
* Cap vial.
* Note and record temperature.
* Place vial in a sealable plastic bag and place in cooler on ice.
* Deliver to the lab as soon as possible, within the lab’s requirements.
* Keep chilled, not frozen.