

Recommencing Milk Supply Protocol Spring 2025

There are milk quality challenges in Carbery each year as milk producers resume milk supply. This is due to the poor quality of milk in the first collection from some suppliers.

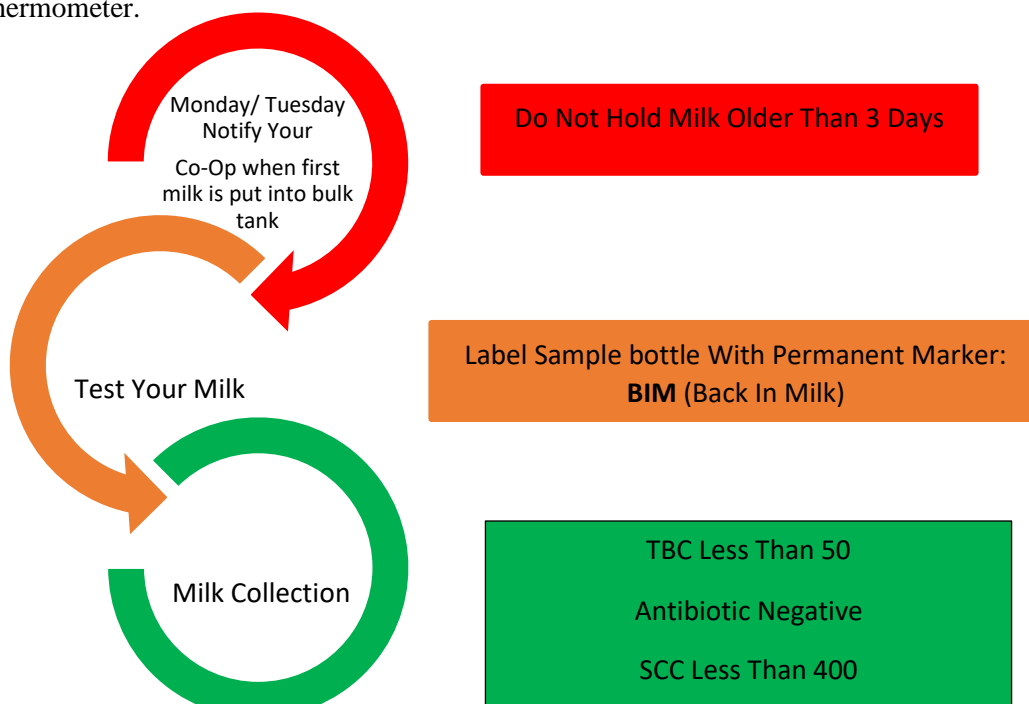
The following protocol will be in place to avoid any potential issues.

1.1 Before Starting Milking

- During the dry period, service and test the milking machine.
- Check you have fresh detergent and descaler, etc. in stock.
- Wash both your machine and bulk tank at least 4 times (twice with acid and twice with detergent) before you start putting milk in the tank.
- Check any auto washer in the milking machine/ tank to ensure that they are taking up the appropriate volume of detergent/ descaler.

1.2 Once you put the first milk in the Tank

- **Co-Op must be informed ASAP after the first milk is put into the bulk tank** so that collection can be arranged, ideally this should be Monday or Tuesday (contact Tim Regan, Lorna Twomey, Darren Lynch or Ciara Sheehan). If milk is in the tank across a weekend before the co-op is notified, we cannot guarantee collection until testing protocols are carried out and collection schedule availability.
- On the first milking the agitator blade **MUST** be submerged in the milk to achieve proper cooling and to prevent freezing (**Milk not agitated correctly will result in very high TBC**).
- **Milk must be tested one day before collection; TBC must be less than 50,000 and antibiotic free. Ensure that you put your creamery sticker on the sample and label the sample “BIM”. BIM stands for Back In Milk and once the lab in Carbery see this, they will know what to test for.**
- Milk Collection can only be sanctioned when all the appropriate tests have been passed and communicated to the milk driver by the assigned milk advisor.
- On the day of first collection milk must not be in the tank for longer than 3 days.
- Monitor temperature of bulk tank on recommencing of milking (Ideal Temp 3.5°C). Cross check with thermometer.



1.3 At Carbery

- All loads with recommencing milk suppliers will be tested before off-loading in Carbery.
- Where a high result is detected, the truck will be sampled and tested, should the tank of milk be unsuitable for processing it will be disposed of and the supplier concerned will be liable for cost of same (check with your insurance that they will cover scenario).

1.4 Four common causes of high Total Bacteria Count (TBC) on first collection

- a) Milk not reaching the agitator (milk freezing).
- b) Milk being held in the tank too long before collection.
- c) Poor washing of machine and bulk tank prior to restarting milking.
- d) Neglecting to wash the dump / colostrum line.

Sample Collection Points

To facilitate recommencing suppliers getting their samples to Carbery for testing, Drinagh will operate a milk sample collection service.

Samples will be collected from the below branches on **every Wednesday and Thursday** morning each week from Wednesday January 22nd until Thursday February 27th.

Sample bottles will be available at your branch should you require them.

Location	Time
Lowertown	9.30 am
Aughadown	9.30 am
Bantry Farm Centre	9.50 am
Skibbereen Hardware	9.50 am
Drinagh Central	10.00 am
Kilmeen	10.00 am
Dunmanway	10.00 am

Ensure all samples are cooled and labelled appropriately.