**Taking Mastitis Milk Samples**

* Try to sample cows at a milking.
* Sample cows before treatment.
* Ask at office for sample pots.
1. Wear **gloves** or wash and dry hands before starting.
2. **Wash** and thoroughly **dry** the teat if it appears dirty.
3. **Strip out** and discard the first 4-6 squirts of milk from the affected quarter.
4. Rub the teat end with a **medicated wipe** or cotton wool soaked in surgical spirit.
5. Remove top from sample pot and hold pot at an **angle of 45 °**.
6. Draw out **one squirt** of milk in a diagonal direction into the pot. (If the pot is held vertical then there is a much greater risk of contamination of the sample).
7. Replace cap and label with **cow number, quarter, and date and farm name**.
8. Store in **fridge**.
9. It may be worth freezing some samples for future reference.