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A. Introduction

The PortaSCC[®] goat milk test is a somatic cell count test designed to quickly check herd health right on the farm.

B. Uses

When do I use this test?

This test has many uses:

- Monitoring *problem does*
- Checking at *Freshening & Dry Off*
- Monitoring sick does *after treatment*
- Monthly herd *screening*

What if I already use a monthly screening program?

The test works well in conjunction with monthly screenings, allowing you to monitor a *hot list* or to test *fresh* and *treated* does between screenings.

Can I use the PortaSCC[®] goat milk test to assay cow samples?

No. The PortaSCC[®] goat milk test has been optimized for goat. It will not give correct results with cow milk. For cows, use the original PortaSCC[®] milk test. There is no SCC test available for other animals at this time.

C. Test Principle & Relation to Other Methods

How does the PortaSCC[®] goat milk test work?

The PortaSCC[®] goat milk test is based on a chemical reaction between a dye on the test strip and an enzyme found on the cells in the milk. This reaction makes the test strip sample well change to a blue color. The darker the blue color, the higher the cell count.

How does the PortaSCC[®] goat milk test differ from the CMT?

The PortaSCC[®] goat milk test can detect a lower level of somatic cells than the CMT and pick up cases of subclinical mastitis. It can be used with half and composite samples.

How does the PortaSCC[®] goat milk test differ from reference lab testing?

Lab instruments use a technique that stains and counts each cell. The PortaSCC[®] goat milk test measures only somatic cells and does not measure other cells that are shed into the milk.

C. Test Principle & Relation to Other Methods (continued)

How does the PortaSCC® goat milk test compare to lab data?	The PortaSCC® goat milk test has been tested against the Green Stain at independent laboratories, and at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. It was found to be a useful on-farm tool.
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D. Kit Storage

How do I store the test kit?	Store the kit at 2°C – 25°C (36°F – 77°F). Refrigerate if possible. Use by the <i>Best if used by</i> date on the back of the box.
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E. Conditions for Running the Test

At what temperature should I test the samples?	We recommend testing the milk samples at a place where the temperature is between 7°C and 35°C (45°F – 95°F).
Can the test be done outside?	Yes, run the test in a shaded area, out of direct sunlight.
Can I dip the test strip in milk or strip milk directly onto the test strip to run the test?	No, a specific volume of sample is needed for the test to be accurate.

F. Milk Samples

How fresh must the milk be?	The milk should be tested within 8 hours of sampling. Bulk tank samples should not contain any milk that is more than 8 hours old.
Will the temperature of the milk affect the test?	If milk is refrigerated, allow it to warm to room temperature before testing.
Should I mix the milk sample before testing?	Yes, it is recommended that the milk sample be mixed before testing.
What happens if I add more than one drop of milk?	Your result may be too high. It is best if you redo the test.
Can samples with preservative be tested?	No, the preservative interferes with the test.
Can samples with antibiotic be tested?	Yes, antibiotics will not interfere with the test.
What if the milk is not absorbed into the Sample Well?	The test will not give an accurate reading when samples are not absorbed into the Sample Well.

G. Activator Solution

What if I add milk, but do not immediately add Activator Solution?	You should try to add Activator Solution within 2 minutes of adding the sample to the test strip. Otherwise, repeat the test with a new strip.
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G. Activator Solution (continued)

How long can the Activator Solution be kept and still be used?	If stored in the recommended temperature range, the Activator Solution can be used through the <i>Best if used by</i> date printed on the back of the kit.
Will the test still work if I accidentally put in 4 drops of Activator Solution instead of 3?	Yes, but you should try to avoid that from happening because results may vary slightly.
Should the Activator Solution stay out of the sun?	Yes.
Can the Activator Solution freeze? If so, what should I do?	Yes, the Activator Solution can freeze. If that happens, simply thaw the Activator Solution completely and continue to use.

H. Pipettes

Can I use a pipette or dropper, other than the one provided, to run the test?	No, use only one of the pipettes provided by the manufacturer. They will form the correct size drop of milk needed to run the test.
How do I reuse the pipette?	After each sample, squirt any milk remaining in the pipette into a waste container. Then insert the pipette tip into the next sample. Squeeze and release the bulb 3 or 4 times before drawing the next sample into the pipette.
How do I store a pipette after I've used it? Do I need to clean it? If so, how?	Rinse pipette with clean water by squeezing and releasing the bulb at least 3–4 times before storage.
How large is one drop of milk from the pipette?	35–40 microliters.
What if the pipette tip touches the Sample Well when I dispense the milk?	You may get less than a full drop of milk on the test strip. This will result in a low reading.
How do I get a full drop of milk onto the Sample Well?	Hold the pipette tip approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ inch above the Sample Well and gently squeeze the bulb; allow a full, hanging drop to fall into the Sample Well.

I. Test Strips

How long can I use test strips after opening the pouch?	We recommend using the strips in the 2-strip pouch within 4 hours after opening.
Where are the lot numbers and <i>Best if used by</i> date for the kit?	The lot number and <i>Best if used by</i> date are printed on the label on the back of the kit box.
What if the test strip is dropped/disturbed during color development?	If the test strip does not pick up dirt or water, it should be fine.

I. Test Strips (continued)

What if dirt gets into the Sample Well? Can we blow it off?

No, do not blow on the test strip and avoid any visible dirt settling on the Sample Well.

What if the Sample Well appears pink when removed from the pouch?

A light pink color will not affect test results. If the color is dark pink, please call your dealer/distributor or call PortaCheck at 866.500.7722 (toll free US) or 856.231.8894 (toll).

J. Reading the Results

Can I tell if a sample has a very high count in less than 5 minutes if I just want a yes/no answer?

Yes, a sample with a very high SCC count will turn the Sample Well blue within 5 minutes if all you want is a yes/no answer. You must still wait 45 minutes before using the color chart.

K. Other

What if my question is not here or I need additional information?

Please check our Web site or contact us using our toll-free number 866.500.7722 (US only). For other areas, please use 856.231.8894.