



**Wisconsin Veterinary  
Diagnostic Laboratory**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## **Total Solids for Liquid Feeds Sampling Guidelines**

### **Sampling Instructions**

- Producers should wear disposable gloves to prevent contamination of the sample with bacteria.
- Producers should plan on collecting samples for a minimum of 7 consecutive days. A sample should be collected from **every** calf feeding during the week.
- Samples must be **thoroughly** mixed (agitated) prior to collection.
- Milk Replacer samples should be prepared and received in liquid form. The lab will not reconstitute Milk Replacer samples.
- Samples should be collected in a leak proof vial. Vials (2 oz translucent lock top) can be purchased from Nelson Jameson (1-800-826-8302). The catalog number is 170-3206.
- Fill the leak proof vial ½ full with milk or milk replacer.
- Label the vial. Each vial should have the date and time (am, pm) of collection clearly written on it.
- Samples should be placed in a household freezer **immediately** after collection. Samples can remain in the freezer for up to 14 days before submission to the laboratory.

### **Shipping Instructions**

- Veterinarians should completely fill out the WVDL Milk Submission Form (**Total Solids** request is included below the Liquid Feed request). An electronic copy of the Milk Submission form is available at the WVDL website: [here](#).
- Request the Total Solids test.
- Package the samples with a sufficient number of ice packs to ensure they remain frozen during shipment. **Warm samples will be rejected.**
- Send the samples by the most expeditious means. The laboratory should receive the samples within 24-36 hours. Samples submitted for both solids and bacterial quantification should be sent directly to the WVDL **Barron** Lab.
- Clients should schedule shipments to avoid weekend and holiday delivery of samples to the laboratory.