

Project aims and objectives

- Improve handling of bacterial count (bactoscan) at the farm level
- Prevent new bacterial count problems in dairy herds
- Identify which bacteria cause high bacterial counts
- Determine the sources of these bacteria (cow distribution)



Project activities

- Preliminary study of up to 16 candidate herds
- Analysis of live bacteria from udder skin, individual milk samples, and bulk tank milk (from 3–5 herds)
- DNA analysis of the same samples, focusing on unculturable microorganisms and bacterial spread patterns
- Analysis of Cattle database data to explore links between somatic cell count and bacterial count at cow and herd level



Deliverables

- Recommendations for identifying, managing, and preventing cow-related bacterial count
- General opportunities to improve:
 - Identify microbiology etiology
 - Develop a protocol for troubleshooting bacterial count from cows
 - Improve farm gate price for herds with challenges with increased bacterial count based on cow contribution

