

PCR assay for *E. coli*

Researchers at the National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), India, have developed a multiplex PCR assay for rapid detection of *Escherichia coli O157:H7*. This highly sensitive test can detect the presence of *E. coli* directly from naturally contaminated raw milk samples within 10-12 hours. The assay explores simultaneously two sets of primers targetted against 'uidR' and 'flC_{h7}' genes specific for *E. coli* and *E. coli O157:H7*, respectively. Trials have shown the test to be highly specific as it produced PCR products of 152 (*E. coli* specific) and 625 bp (*E. coli O157: H7*) only when an annealing temperature of 63°C and extension 65°C were used. (Indian Dairyman, May 2000)