

# Performing Water Analysis Inside the Barn

The 2014 version of CFC's *Safe, Safer, Safest On-Farm Food Safety Assurance Program* requires that water samples for the annual water testing be taken from inside the grow-out area at the nipples/outlet pipe.

The specific change in this version of the manual is that the samples need to be taken from the nipples or outlet pipe. The intent of this requirement is to evaluate the water quality that is specifically being consumed by the birds. The only true way to do this is to take a sample of the water that the birds are actually drinking.

Sampling the water at this location is important because there are possibilities for contamination once water enters the barns, which can contribute to bacterial growth. In addition, biofilm that build up on the inside of water lines provides an excellent environment for pathogens, which can lead to health problems.

While sampling water from inside the barn can be a little trickier due to the possibility of environmental contamination, it is definitely possible to do! It is recommended that the water sample be taken in between flocks after the barn has been cleaned and disinfected.

The following guidelines will help to avoid environmental contamination and to take a proper water sample from inside the barn from the nipples or from the outlet pipe.

- (1) Wear disposable gloves.
- (2) Label the plastic vessel and do not remove the lid.
- (3) Clean the nipple/pipe/outlet with an alcohol wipe.
- (4) Remove the nipple/outlet and let the water run into a bucket for 1-2 minutes. This will remove any stagnant water and debris that might contaminate the sample.
- (5) Wearing the disposable gloves, remove the lid of the vessel and let the stream of water run inside the sample and completely fill it.

Caution: Do not touch the inside of the lid, the opening of the vessel or put the lid down. If you do so, discard and take another sample.

- (6) Seal the vessel and send to the laboratory as soon as possible. The most accurate results are obtained within 6 hours of sampling. Refrigerate overnight if necessary.

