

# Risk Factors Associated with Contamination of Raw Milk by *Listeria monocytogenes* in Dairy Farms

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A case-control study involving 128 selected dairy farms was conducted to assess the association of several suspected risk factors with the odds of contamination of raw milk by *Listeria monocytogenes*. Using logistic regression, we found that poor quality of silage (pH >4.0), inadequate frequency of cleaning the exercise area, poor cow cleanliness, insufficient lighting of milking barns and parlors, and incorrect disinfection of towels between milkings were significantly associated with milk contamination by *L. monocytogenes*. More attention to preparing silage and good milking and barn hygiene are important for diminishing the risks of exogenous contamination of raw milk by *L. monocytogenes*.

**Key Words:** *Listeria monocytogenes* • raw milk • bacteriology quality

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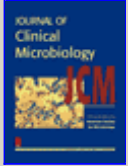
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