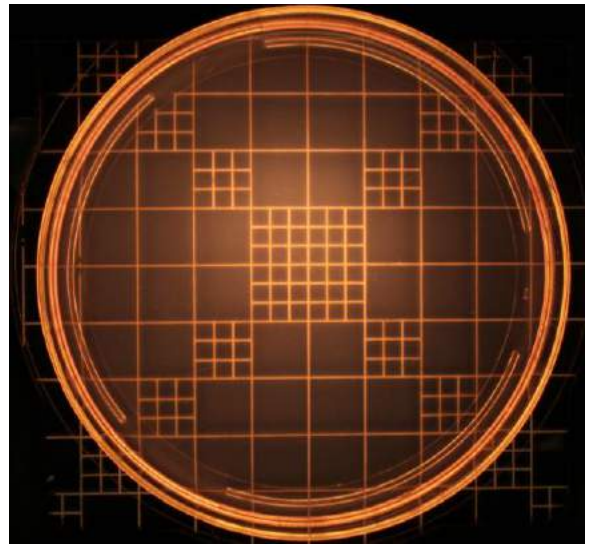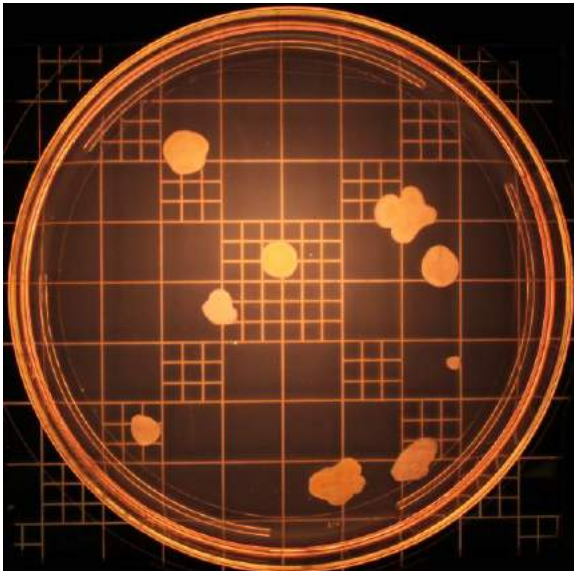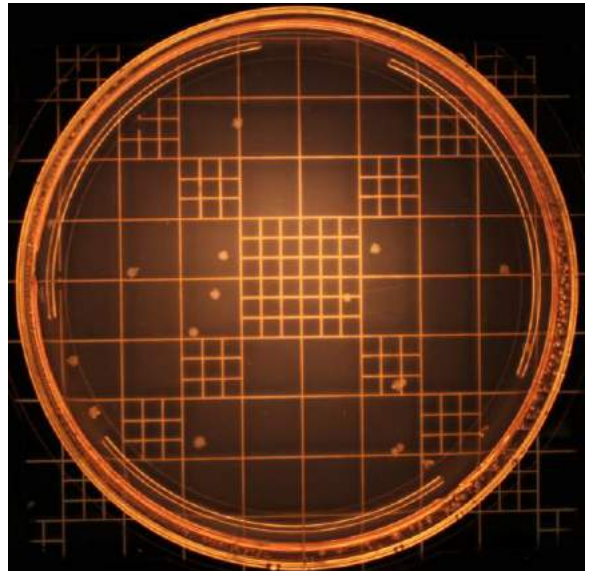Spore Methods Project – Plate Interpretation Guide

The purpose of this guide is to provide examples for how to enumerate colonies for dairy powder spore testing. In particular, we have included examples of spreading and swarming, which is common for spore-forming bacteria. This guide follows SMEDP[1] plate count interpretation for enumerating colonies on spread plate. As such, for plates with >25% spreading, estimate the count and mark "SPR" in the "Notes" column in the results spreadsheet.

CFU = 0; no spreading

CFU = 9; no spreading
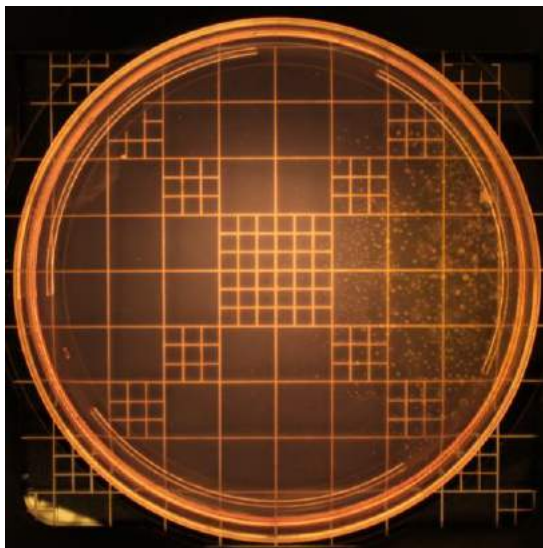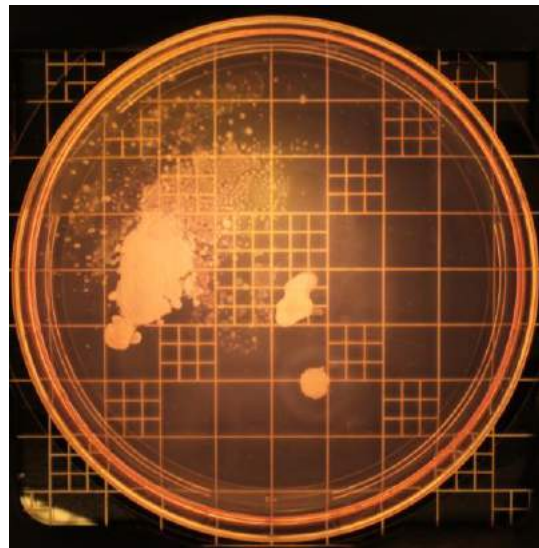

CFU = 16; no spreading
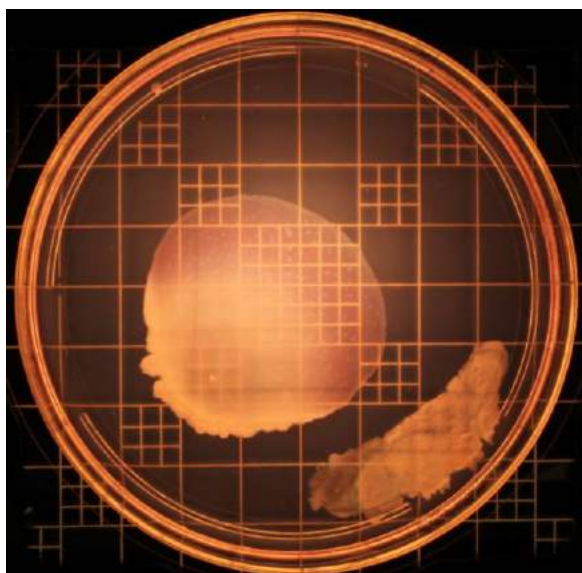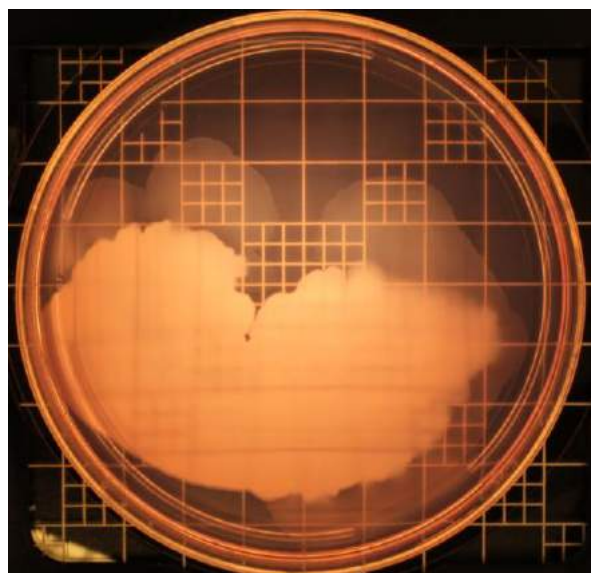

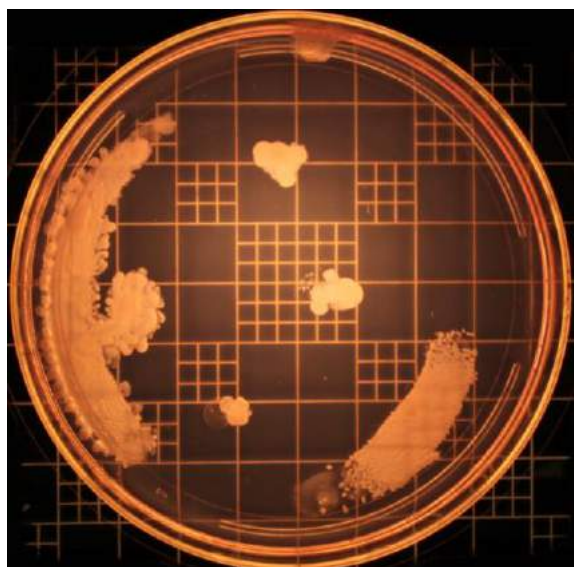CFU = 3; ≤25% spreading

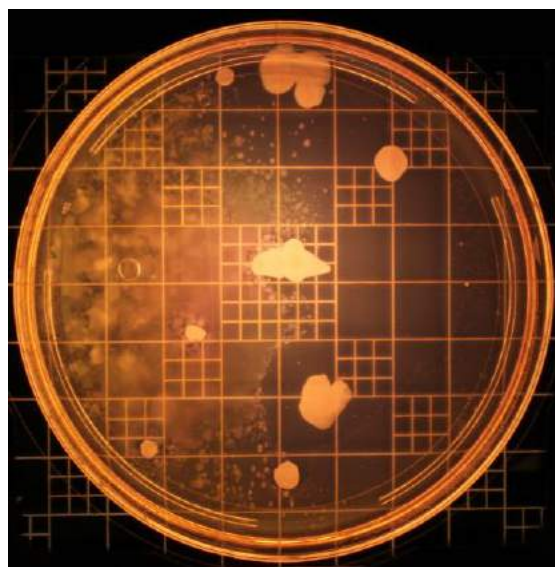CFU = 1; ≤25% spreading

CFU = 1; ≤25% spreading

CFU = 3; ≤25% spreading

CFU = 2; >25% spreading = SPR

CFU = 1; >25% spreading = SPR

CFU = 6; ≤25% spreading

CFU = 9; >25% spreading = SPR

1.	Laird, D. T., Gambrel-Lenarz, S. A., Scher, F. M., Graham, T. E. & Reddy, R. Microbiological count methods. in *Standard Methods for the Examination of Dairy Products* (eds. Wehr, H. & Frank, J.) 153–187 (American Public Health Association, 2004).