* **Study overview**
  + Mastitis risk and microbiome of milk, teat skin and bedding
  + 10 farms
    - Sampled once a month for 5 months
    - 50 farm visits
    - 5 tiestall with wood shavings, 5 bedded pack
* **What does a farm visit look like?**
  + What samples are we getting?
    - Bulk tank milk
    - Composite bedding sample
    - 35 individual cows
      * Skin swab each of 4 teats
      * Quarter samples on every cow, in duplicate
  + Milkings will be different at different farms
    - Mostly tiestalls
    - Some flat parlors
    - One regular parlor
* **Logistics**
  + Some will be morning milkings, some afternoons
    - Will send around sign-up sheet (Google doc) after meeting with as far out as I’ve scheduled
  + Milkings last about 2 hours on average, most farms are about 1-1.5 hour drive
  + Arriving 30 minutes before milking to set up
  + Will be driving 12 passenger UVM van
  + Meet outside Biosecurity room (121 Terrill) at appointed time
  + Wear tall washable tall boots, coveralls (?)
* **General comportment on a farm**
  + Calm and quiet around cows, especially since there will be 4-5 of us and we are new and scary
  + Close every gate behind you!
  + Don’t walk in front of cows! Walk in alleyway behind them… don’t want to be tracking anything through feed
    - Why?
  + Be aware of your surroundings, and try not to be in the way!
    - People trying to get chores down, get out of the way when carrying milking units back and forth, mixing wagons, bale feeders, etc.
  + If a cow looks nervous, listen to your gut
    - Don’t risk getting hurt! It’s not worth it
    - Let us know, we can check it out and decide if she REALLY needs to be sampled
  + Come onto farm only with ***clean boots and clean coveralls,* remove coveralls when leaving and scrub boots completely clean!**
    - Why?
  + We’re guests on someone else’s farm; they’ve been gracious enough to welcome us and allow us to do research with their animals. Treat them, their animals, and their property with the utmost respect!
* **Off-farm work opportunities**
  + Few hours before each farm visit, labeling quartermilk tubes, teat skin tubes, putting in molecular grade water
    - If p.m. sampling, will happen that morning
    - May be day before if a.m. sampling
  + Few hours in lab processing quartermilk samples from farm visit
    - Mostly labeling plates and plating milk
    - If sampling was p.m., will happen next a.m.; if sampling was a.m., happen that afternoon
  + Can sign up for both of these also in the Google doc I’ll send out
* **Getting paid**
  + How?
    - Will add people through Peoplesoft
    - Submit hours through Peoplesoft
  + How much?
    - 11 dollars an hour
    - We’ll pay for driving time
* Demonstration of:
  + Teat skin samples
  + Quarter milk samples