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**Abstract**

The aim of this study was to compare six commercial, three non-commercial, and two combined methods for isolation of DNA from milk, on the basis of estimated quantity and quality, using spectrophotometric measurements and cow-specific real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR). An evaluation of the associated time, cost and labour of each method was carried out as an additional assessment. The highest concentration of DNA was obtained by a phenol-chloroform protocol combined with DNeasy Blood and Tissue kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany), but the spectrophotometric measurements and real-time PCR parameters showed that the DNA quality was not good. According to the real-time PCR efficiency (E) and correlation coefficient (R2), only three commercial kits, namely, QIAprep Spin Miniprep (Qiagen), DNeasy Blood and Tissue kit, (Qiagen) and SmartHelix First DNAid (ExVivon, Ljubljana, Slovenia), as well as one combined method (phenol-chloroform protocol and Nucleospin Food kit (Macherey-Nagel, Düren, Germany) produced DNA of good quality for real-time PCR. Given the estimated time required for DNA extraction, and the cost and labour requirements, the three commercial kits were faster, cheaper and simpler than the other methods, and can be recommended as applicable methods for the extraction of DNA from milk.

Agrovoc Keywords

* [food technology](http://aims.fao.org/aos/agrovoc/c_3030)
* [milk](http://aims.fao.org/aos/agrovoc/c_4826)
* [food quality](http://aims.fao.org/aos/agrovoc/c_10965)
* [DNA](http://aims.fao.org/aos/agrovoc/c_2347)
* [spectrophotometry](http://aims.fao.org/aos/agrovoc/c_14497)

**Abstract: *Cryptosporidium* species are frequently associated with diarrhea among AIDS patients in Thailand, and dairy herds are a possible source of some of these infections. A cross‐sectional study was performed to determine if *Cryptosporidium* is present among dairy cows in Thailand. Fecal samples were randomly collected from 363 Holstein‐Friesian dairy cows from 108 of 860 farms in the Nong Pho region of central Thailand. The average prevalence of *Cryptosporidium* among dairy cows was 9.4%, according to an assay for *Cryptosporidium‐*specific antigen (CSA) and 0.6% by microscopic examination of acid‐fast stained feces. CSA was detected in all host age categories tested, but was most prevalent among calves (15.1%). Overall, 31.5% of farms were contaminated with *Cryptosporidium*infections. Fifty percent of poorly managed farms had CSA‐positive cows, which were more likely to contaminate water and raw milk, while 12.9% of farms with acceptable management practices had CSA‐positive cows. There was no association between the detection of *Cryptosporidium* and other gastrointestinal parasites. These results indicate that *Cryptosporidium* is enzootic among Thai dairy cattle, and suggest that cattle could have a role in zoonotic cryptosporidiosis in Thailand.**