



## **Impact of Hygiene and Animal Health in the Final Product**

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**Abstract:** The paper examines the factors which cause the increase of number of somatic cells, the link between the increase in the number of cells to other ingredients of milk, and the impact on the quality of the final product with milk base. During the period of August 2011-December 2011, 200 samples were collected from collection points which were intended for intensive processing from four of the milk processors in Kosovo, namely 50 samples for each dairy, divided into 10 samples a month, so both summer and winter seasons were covered. The samples were analyzed at the Milk Laboratory of the Food and Veterinary Agency (FVA). All methods as well as sampling, transport, and their analysis is based on conditions defined by Regulation no. 12/2011 Specific Rules for Determining the Hygiene of Foods of animal origin as approved by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo on 30.09.2011, based on Council Directive 94/71/EC and 92/46/ECC. For all samples analyzes it is ensured that they are compliant with hygienic conditions for raw milk with particular attention being paid to hygiene during milking, collection and transport. Samples have shown mixed results, generally in the summer months (August-September) we has a number of samples with high count of somatic cells, while in November and December there was almost the opposite, where we has a considerable number of samples classified into extra class. In both these cases the number of cells reaches very high levels, up to 750,000 and over, and we have to deal with alarming levels and high mastitis infection. It has been confirmed once again, that the impact of the increase in number of somatic cells is versatile.

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