Short Communication: Quantification of the Transmission of Microorganisms to Milk via Dirt Attached to the Exterior of Teats. By Vissers et al., page 3579. Many microorganisms are transmitted to farm tank milk (FTM) via dirt feces, bedding material, or soil attached to the exterior of teats. To identify measures to control the microbial contamination of FTM, it is important to know the amount of contaminated material transmitted to milk via this route. This study showed that, during housing, the amount of transmitted contaminated material among 11 randomly selected farms varied from 3 to 300 mg of dirt/L of milk, with an average of 59 mg/L.