

Ready for the Count? Back-To-Basics Review of Microbial Colony Counting.



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INTRODUCTION Microbiological laboratories remain reliant on the accurate determination of the number of colony forming units (CFUs) on growth media; this is notwithstanding advances with rapid microbiological methods, at least for some applications. Mainstay methods include pour plates, spread plates, and membrane filtration. Counting of microbes is important as it enables a laboratory to estimate the microbial population in a variety of products (bioburden) (1). Yet there are limitations with plate count methods, including the fact that they only count viable cells and culturable organisms; moreover,...

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