Gram negative organisms cannot be differentiated at the genus level (such as E. coli, Klebsiella or Enterobacter) on the agar plates used in on-farm cultures. However, they can be identified as lactose negative or lactose positive by what color they ferment lactose in MacConkey agar. Gram negative infections often resolve on their own. Therefore, it is not always necessary to treat with antibiotics. Remember, it is always advisable to consult your local veterinarian when making these decisions.

**Biplate**
*Gram-Negative bacteria* (growth only on MacConkey and blood agars)

**Triplate**
*Lactose-positive* (pink growth on MacConkey agar)  *Lactose-negative* (white/yellow growth on MacConkey agar)  
E. coli  
Klebsiella  
Enterobacter

**Quadplate**
*Gram-Negative bacteria* (growth only on MacConkey and blood agars)

**Contamination**
*Contaminated plate* (growth on all agars)