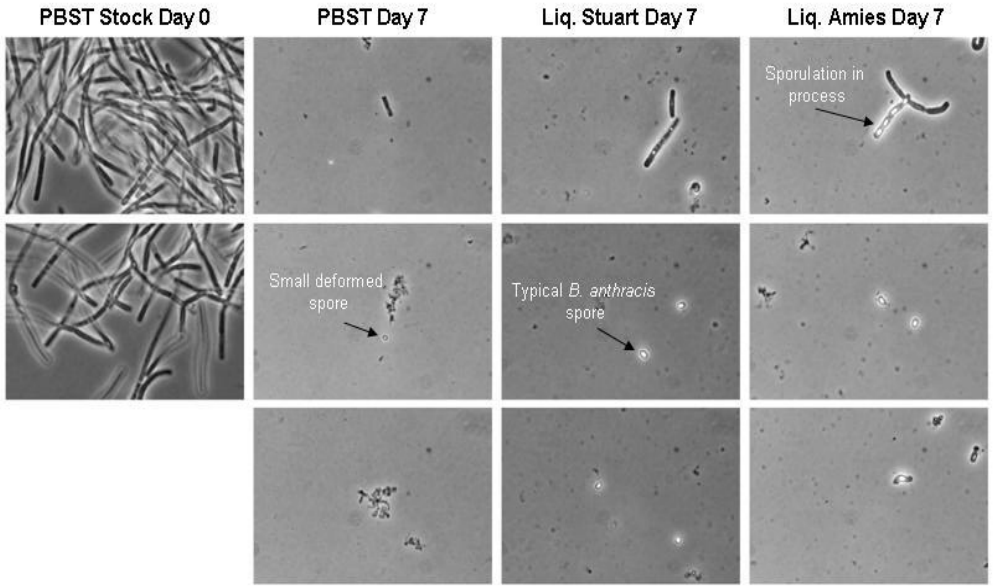
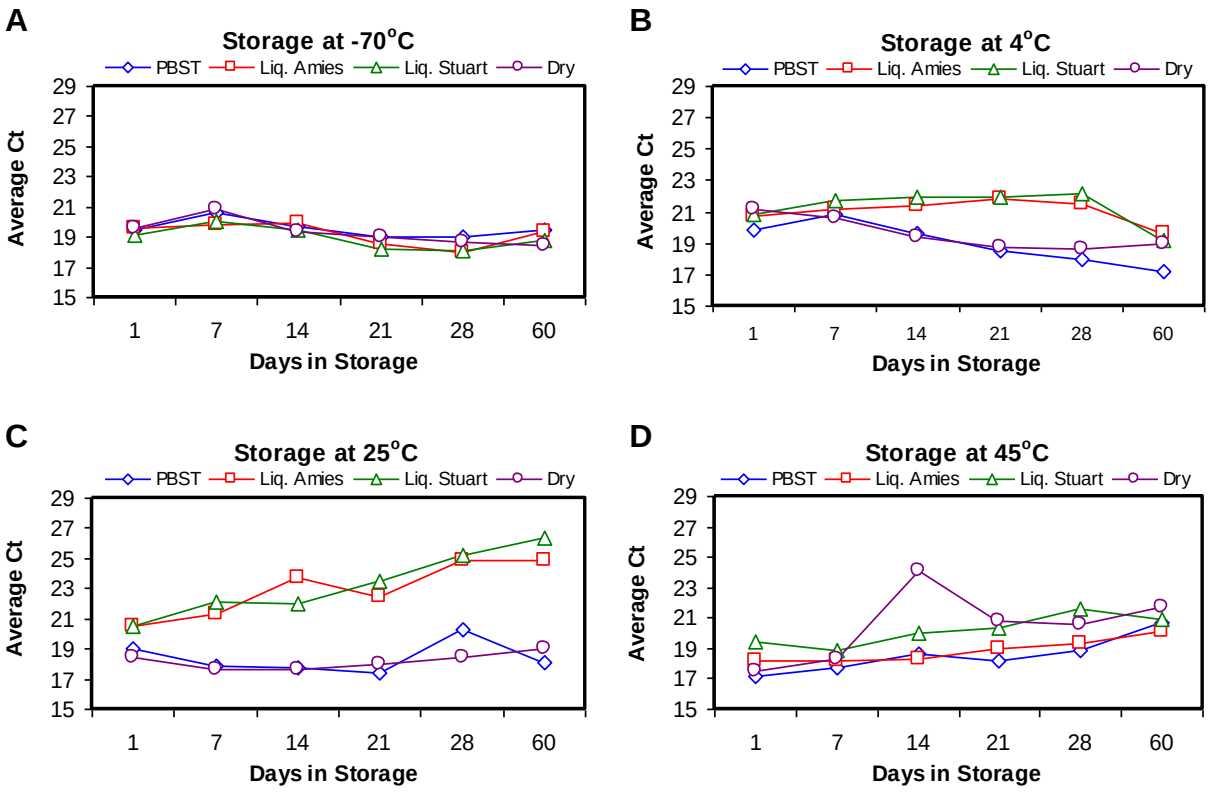
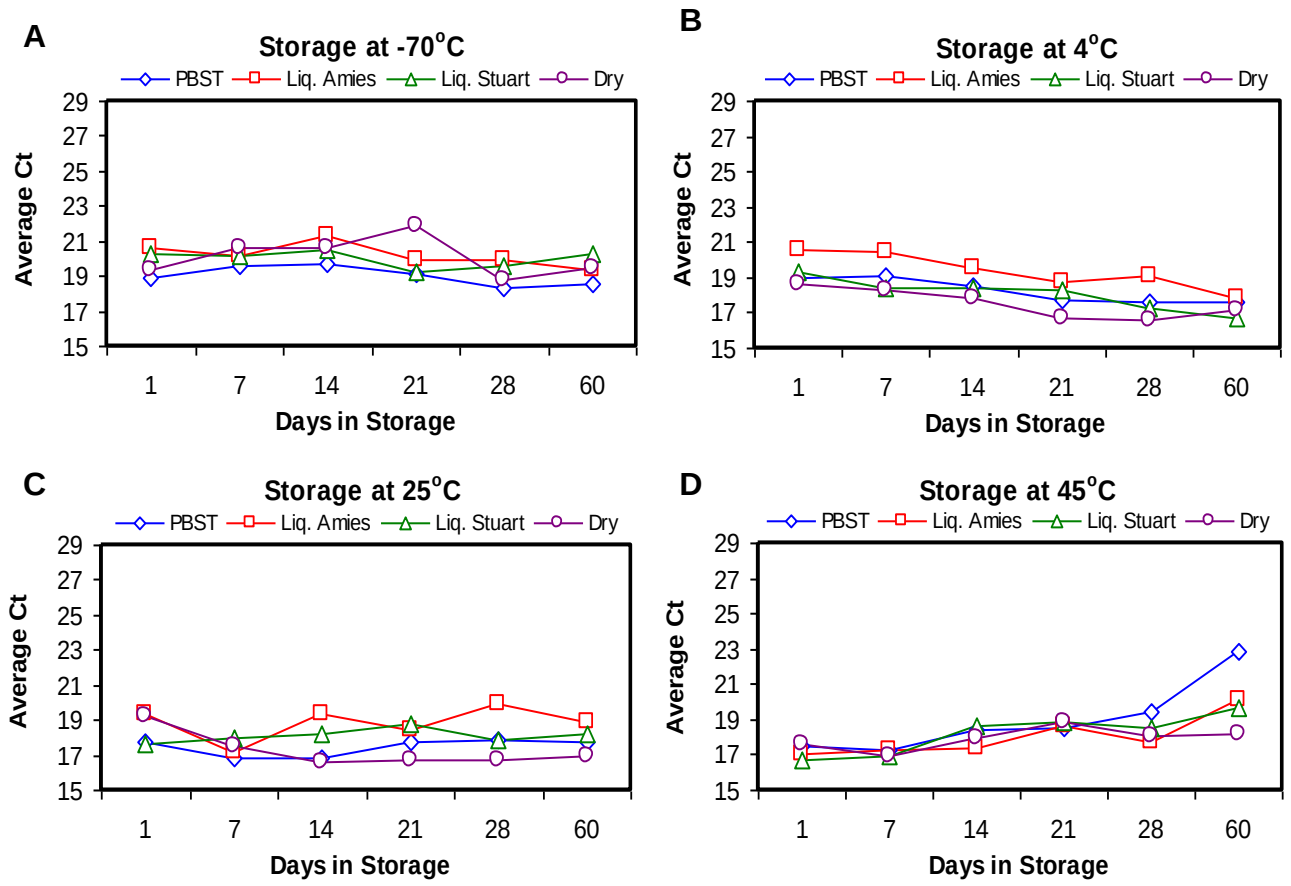


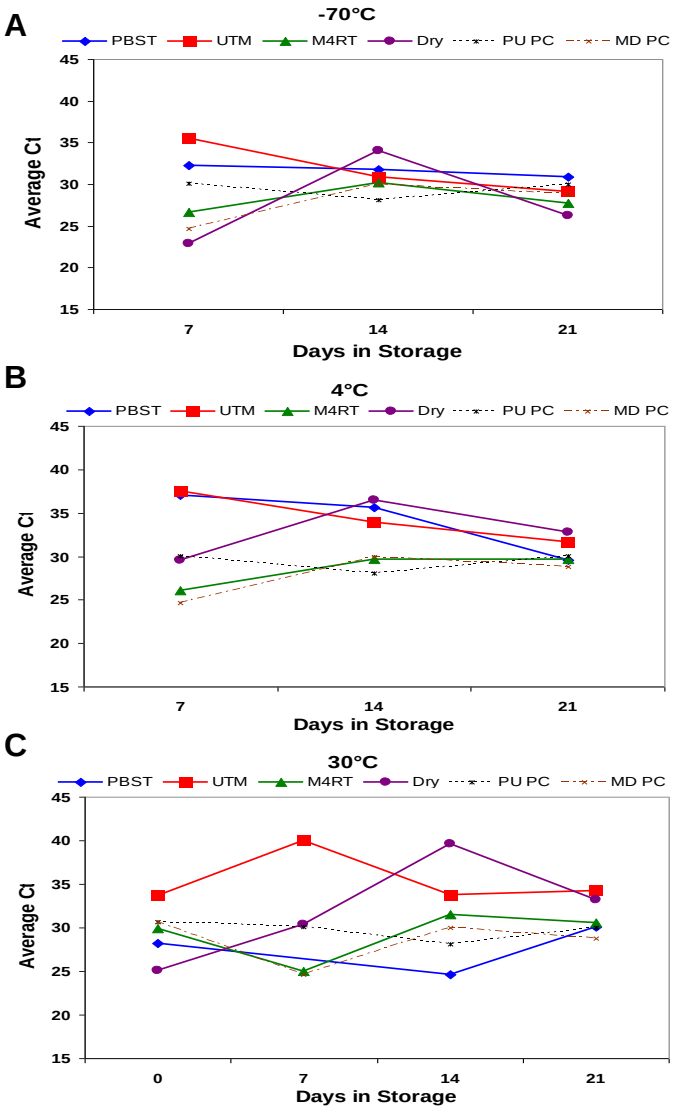
Supplemental Figure 1. Sporulation of *B. anthracis* Sterne in transport media. Microscopic digital images captured using 100× objective. Vegetative cells are seen as long filaments in the stock culture on day zero (panels on the far left). Spores are observed as small refractive bodies either within the filamentous cells (or cell fragment) or free within the transport media (panels on the right).



Supplemental Figure 2. Detection of *Y. pestis* A1122 nucleic acid signature using real-time PCR. Each graph summarizes the real-time detection data for each storage temperature -70°C (A), 4°C (B), 25°C (C) and 45°C (D). Data points represent the average C_t value for two PCR reactions.



Supplemental Figure 3. Detection of *B. anthracis* Sterne nucleic acid signature using real-time PCR. Each graph summarizes the real-time detection data for each storage temperature. Data points represent the average C_t value for two PCR reactions.



Supplemental Figure 4. Detection of VEE virus nucleic acid signature using real-time PCR. Each graph summarizes the real-time detection data at (A) -70°C, (B) 4°C and (C) 30°C. Data points represent the average Ct value for two PCR reactions. There were two separate PCR assays per time point. Positive controls for each assay are indicated by the dashed lines (PU PC = PBST/UTM positive control and MD PC = M4RT/Dry positive control).