

CELLCHECK TIP OF THE MONTH



APPROACHING MID LACTATION - TIME TO TAKE STOCK OF YOUR PROBLEM COWS

During lactation, cows can become infected from both environmental and contagious mastitis organisms. Here are some key As we approach mid lactation, and hopefully you have a little more time available following the busy calving and breeding seasons, it is a good opportunity to review how your herd is performing. If you notice your bulk tank somatic cell count (SCC) starting to creep up slightly during the summer months don't ignore it, as it is likely to be because the number of infected quarters in your herd is increasing a little. This in turn can lead to more infected quarters and so on. Don't assume it will 'settle down'. Act now and set your herd up well for late lactation, with minimal mastitis infections and maximum milk production.

WHAT IS A PROBLEM COW?

A cow that has had 3 or more clinical cases of mastitis during her lactation, or that has had an average SCC of 200,000 cells/mL or higher in two consecutive lactations despite antibiotic treatment during the dry period, is a problem cow. Cure rates for mastitis vary and it is worth remembering that some of these problem cows can't be cured.

HOW CAN MILK RECORDING HELP?

Milk recording your cows regularly allows you to easily see what is happening within your herd. It is the best tool you have to establish which cows are the most profitable in your herd while also identifying cows with a high SCC, indicating subclinical mastitis. After teat disinfection, milk recording is the next most important tool in dealing with high SCC and mastitis. These problem cows are not only costing you money, which is sometimes not apparent, but they can also be a source of infection for the healthy cows. Milk recording is also the most reliable way of collecting individual cow information required to identify the cows that will need a dry cow antibiotic.

Herds that milk record get a CellCheck summary report, along with an individual cow information report after each milk recording. To achieve the full benefit of milk recording it is important to look at these reports carefully. They give an overview of the key areas of mastitis control, highlighting the areas of good mastitis control and the areas that could be improved. If you're not used to interpreting the reports, don't be afraid to ask your milk recording organization, vet, farm, or co-op advisor to help you navigate them.

The reports show how your herd is performing in relation to the herd with an SCC above 200,000 cells/ by comparing SCC levels in consecutive been recently infected, if their SCC is persistently infected, if they have had

If you have not done so already, book SCC and make a plan around the best quarters may be a sensible option. allows, so make the decision easier and potential shortage of grass following the cull these cows sooner rather than later.

For more information, check out the two information videos below



https://youtu.be/cVeFTWN_mFw
Knowing your Problem Cows



<https://youtu.be/5ZrIBHlmaIU>
Benefits of Milk Recording