

# Managing Mastitis

Find and treat clinical mastitis as quickly as possible.  
The earlier mastitis is found and treated the higher the chance of curing.

**Target** A bulk milk SCC of less than 120,000 at peak milk (late October, spring calving)

This will ensure you are in a good position to consistently supply milk under 150,000 SCC.  
This will also make it easier to change to 3in2 or OAD milking later in the season.

General rule of thumb for a seasonal supply herd: If you double your average SCC in peak milk (October), then this is the average SCC you can expect in Autumn. So target the lowest possible SCC average in peak milk.

PREVENTION

## Cup Change and Milking Strategy

### Ensure clusters are not removed under vacuum

Cup quietly and smoothly to minimise air intake. Use finger to guide teat into cup.  
Clusters should be aligned properly to ensure a complete seal and even milk out.

**Don't pull the cups off under vacuum.**  
Break the vacuum close to the cluster by closing the clamp or kinking the long milk tube.

Wait 1-2 seconds for the vacuum to drop and cluster to fall away. When manually removing, a slight twist of the cluster as it is removed can help.

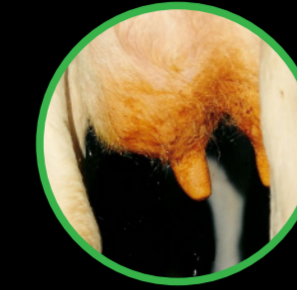
If Automatic Cup Removers (ACR's) are installed, check to ensure cups are not being removed under vacuum.



## Teat Management Strategy

### Post milking - teat sanitising

Teat spray every cow after every milking ensuring all teats are well covered.



### Why teat spray post milking?

- Reduces new mastitis infections by 50%
- Improves teat condition
- Reduces bacteria on the teat

### Maintaining good teat condition

- Always add 10 - 15% extra emollient to teat spray at calving.**
- Add extra emollient to teat spray at any time during the rest of the season when teats are dry.
- Monitor teats regularly.



## Healthy Teats - Did you know?

### Teat barrels

Aim to have at least 90% of teat barrels in green zone.



### Teat ends

Aim for at least 95% of the teat ends in the green zone.



### Use an efficient milking strategy (MaxT)?

- To reduce risk of overmilking
- To shorten the time cups are on the teats, which will help reduce the risk of mastitis

### How MaxT works?

- Milking is finished at a set time for all cows based on the herd's average milk production (litres).
- It eliminates the risk of prolonged overmilking.

### Get started with MaxT

- Refer to DairyNZ website for more information
- Calculate your MaxT times by downloading the Milksmart App
- Look at using the MbT - visit [www.milkingbytime.co.nz](http://www.milkingbytime.co.nz)



## Colostrum Herd Management Strategy

### To manage colostrum herd:

- Prior to first milking clean teats with teat wipes.
- Foremilk strip daily to check for clinical mastitis and remove Teatseal.
- When colostrum milk is not being sold to the dairy company you can pre and post teat spray to ensure good teat condition.
- Ensure the addition of an extra 10-15% of emollient to the teat spray mix for colostrums and milkers in Spring.
- Apply teat grease to colostrum cows that need teat condition improved.

### Colostrum herd management strategy

**RMT colostrum cows at 8th milking before entering milking herd.**

### Strongly positive cows:

- Mark yellow (watch).
- Hold back and re-check with RMT at next milking.
- Have a plan with your veterinarian on how to manage the cows that continue to remain positive (subclinical) on the RMT.

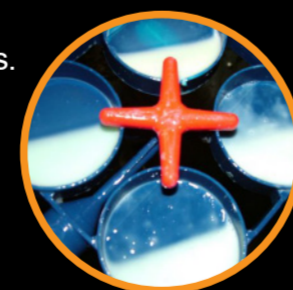
### Still positive:

Younger cows: If still positive 2 days later, consider treating.  
Older cows: If still positive 2 days later, consult vet on weather to treat.

### Key points:

- Focus on detecting and treating clinical mastitis.
- Monitor subclinical mastitis (RMT).
- Foremilk strip regularly and treat if cow has clinical signs.

RMT detects high SCC that indicates a subclinical mastitis infection. But SCC will be high during the first 8 milkings post calving as the cows udder adjusts to milking and also and it will also be high after a cow has been treated for clinical mastitis.



## Milking Herd Management Strategy

### Focus on foremilk stripping

**Foremilk strip the milking herd weekly from calving to at least peak milk.**

**When:** Weekly from calving to at least peak milk

**How:** Strip onto a black surface/paddle

**Why:** This will make cows calmer and easier to cup and give you good control of bulk milk SCC.

**Tip:** Strip on a Monday or Tuesday so all treatments are completed before the weekend. Consider allocating an extra staff member to help strip all 4 quarters at the one milking.



### CHECK >>> STRIP

### CHECK Daily

- CHECK the herd daily for swollen quarters during cups on and cups off.

### STRIP Regularly

- STRIP at a regular time up until peak milk (October).
- STRIP when clinical signs are seen on the filter sock.
- STRIP when the bulk SCC exceeds your target range.

DETECTION & MRST

## MRST

### MARK

Mark when you have decided a cow needs antibiotic treatment.

### RECORD

Record the cow's number and treatment details.

### SEPARATE

Separate cows securely from milking herd. Milk last.

### TREAT

Treat cows after marking, record and separating.

## Clinical Signs - Did you know?

### Clinical signs in milk (Strip onto a black surface)

Clinical signs include milk that has clots, flecks, discolouration, is watery and/or shows separation.

### Good milk



### Flecks



### Watery separation



### Clots & discolouration



TREATMENT

## Drying Off / Culling Strategy

### Use your records to monitor individual cow treatments.

Consider:

- Drying off quarters when cow is treated for the 3rd time in the same quarter in a season.

- Culling mastitis cows that aren't responding to treatment and have another reason to be on the cull list e.g. repeat years of high SCC, low production, lameness etc.



## Staph A Strategy

Staph Aureus mastitis is in approximately 85% of NZ herds, it is spread from cow to cow.

Staph Aureus bacteria can be easily controlled using the mastitis prevention and mastitis management strategies described on this poster. Managing Staph Aureus is logical and simple, and there is no need for complicated systems.

Guiding principle: Keep your management strategy simple and consistent – don't focus too much on the type of mastitis bacteria present if your SCC is good, instead focus on prevention.