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

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. It 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 (Oct), then this is the average SCC you can expect in autumn. So target the lowest possible SCC average in peak milk.

MbT Milking By Time

PREVENTION

Cup change 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 then check to ensure cups are not being removed under vacuum.

To reduce the risk of overmilking and make milking more efficient implement a MaxT (Maximum Time) milking strategy.

For more information on MaxT refer to the DairyNZ website. To calculate your MaxT times download the free Milk Smart App.

A MaxT milking strategy eliminates the risk of prolonged overmilking as milking is finished at a set time for all cows based on the herd's average production.

Teat management strategy

Post milking - teat sanitising

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

Why post milking teat spray?

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 the teat spray mixture in Spring and at any time during the rest of the season when teats are dry.

Monitor teats regularly.

Did you know?

Healthy teats

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

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

DETECTION & MRST

Colostrum herd management strategy

Prior to first milking clean teats.

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 colostrum cows and the milking herd in Spring.

Apply teat grease to colostrum cows that need teat condition improved.

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.

If still positive 2 days later, and if the cow is young, talk to your veterinarian about treatment options. For older cows, consult veterinarian on whether to treat. RMT detects high SCC that indicates a subclinical mastitis infection. But SCC will be high during the first 8 milkings post calving as the cow's udder adjusts to milking and also high after a cow has been treated for clinical mastitis.

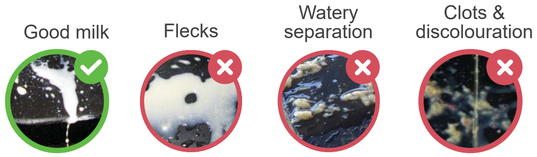
Efforts need to be focused on detecting and treating clinical mastitis. Monitor subclinical mastitis (RMT), foremilk strip regularly and treat if cow has clinical signs.

Did you know?

Clinical signs of mastitis milk

Strip milk on to a black surface.

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



Milking herd management strategy

Focus on foremilk stripping

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

Foremilk strip the milking herd on to a black surface weekly. This will make cows calmer and easier to cup and give you good control of bulk milk SCC.
Strip on a Monday or Tuesday so all treatments are completed before the weekend.
Allocate an extra staff member if needed to help strip all 4 quarters at the one milking.

CHECK >>>> STRIP

Daily CHECK herd:

Look daily during cupping to identify any swollen quarters at cups on and cups off.

Regularly STRIP herd:

At a set time up until peak milk (October).
When clinical signs are seen on the filter sock.
When bulk SCC exceeds your target range.

MRST

MARK	RECORD	SEPARATE	TREAT
Mark when you have decided a cow needs antibiotic treatment.	Record the cow's number and treatment details.	Separate cows securely from milking herd. Milk these cows last and after the vat is disconnected.	Treat cow after marking, recording and separating.

TREATMENT

Drying off / culling strategy

Use your records to monitor individual cow treatments. Look to dry off quarters when cow is treated for the 3rd time in the same quarter in a season.

Consider 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 spread from cow to cow, but can be easily managed by following this poster's approach to mastitis prevention. Research showed 85% of NZ herds had Staph Aureus present. Most of these farms effectively manage Staph Aureus within their herds by focusing on these simple repeatable approaches to mastitis prevention. This poster explains these logical mastitis management practices that will control the spread of Staph Aureus bacteria between cows with no further need for complicating your systems.

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

The Co-operative Difference

Support If you have questions about mastitis, you can contact the Farm Source Service Centre on: **0800 65 65 68**

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