

NEWS RELEASE

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Mastitis Management Update

The following articles are courtesy of the National Mastitis Council.

How Much Clinical Mastitis?

Estimates of the incidence of clinical mastitis reported on dairy farms are highly variable. Detection bias, differing definitions of mastitis, and differences in the calculation of mastitis rates contribute to large differences in clinical mastitis reported among studies.

Estimates of clinical mastitis in commercial dairy herds from published studies (1990-2000) ranged from 7.3% of lactations to 36.6% of cows.

Goals for clinical mastitis should be individually assessed, but a reasonable goal for incidence of clinical mastitis in a dairy herd is two or less new cases per 100 cows per month (less than 24% of cows per year).

Quick Tips – Collecting Bulk Tank Milk Samples

Prior to collection, agitate the milk in the bulk tank for 5-10 minutes. Collect samples from the top of the bulk milk tank using a sanitized dipper. Do not sample from the outlet valve because bacteria can grow around the valve.

If you are sampling a bottom-loading tank, drain the milk down to the clean-out door and take the sample. When collecting line samples, be sure to sanitize and rinse the collection vessel and tube before sampling. Keep the collection vessel cold at all times to prevent bacterial growth.

Use containers suitable for transport and label the containers properly. Freeze or cool BTM samples immediately. When collecting samples, make sure the bulk tank has been properly cleaned, not merely hosed out.

Teat Condition Scoring: Suggested Targets

Teat condition scoring is an effective udder health monitoring tool. In a presentation at the 2005 NMC Regional Meeting, Eric Hillerton, Inst. for Animal Health, recommended the following targets for levels of “abnormality” in a herd:

Color: no more than 10% of cows with light-colored teats should have one or more teats that are visibly reddened (congested) or tinged with blue (cyanotic).

Swelling at or near the top of the teat: no more than 10 % of cows should have one or more teats with marked swelling or palpable rings.

Swelling and hardness at or near the teat-end: no more than 20% of cows should have one or more teat-ends classified as firm, hard or swollen, or severely wedged.

Openness of teat orifice: no more than 10% of cows have one or more teat orifices classed as open.

Vascular damage: more than 5 % of cows should have petechiations on one or more light-coloured teats.

Teat skin conditions: no more than 2% of cows should have open lesions (including chap or cracks) on one or more teats.

Teat-end hyperkeratosis: no more than 20% of cows have one or more teats that are scored rough or very rough and no more than 2% very rough.

Forage Council Meeting Rescheduled

The Manitowoc County Forage Council Twilight Meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be hosted by Blue Royal Farm (the Staudinger Families), 1329 Menchalville Road, Reedsville.

The agenda for the meeting follows.

- 7:00 Early Bird Demo on Bunker Silo Densities
 ...Michelle Klemme, CP Feeds
- 7:30 How We Plan to Manage Our Forage Inventory
 ...Bob Staudinger, Blue Royal Farms, Inc.
- 7:50 Our Experiences with Annual Rye Grass and High Population Corn
 (50,000 plants/acre)
 ...Tom Braun, Hamp Haven Farms and Wolfgang Dairy
- 8:10 Just How (and What) are We Going to Feed Our Cows?
 ...Dr. Randy Shaver, UW-Extension Dairy Nutritionist
- 8:45 Farm Tour

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