



Early Lactation SCC Management

If your bulk tank somatic cell count is high at the beginning of a new lactation year – don't ignore it this is important to correct for the rest of the year. The reason for this is likely for poor cure rates from drying off, not using the correct antibiotic tube which targets the bacteria or poor housing condition during the winter. The number of infected quarters will increase per milking, which can lead to a major problem going into peak milk production.

Do not assume that small SCC bulk tank increases during the spring will fix themselves once cows are out to grass – it is important to act now and set your herd up for the year ahead, for minimum mastitis infections and maximum milk production.

Mastitis cure rate vary from 20 – 80% depending on various factors example, duration of infection, bacteria causing infection, age/lactation of cow, milk practice.

All emphasis should be placed on preventing the spread of infection and trying to ensure that a low SCC cow is not infected by a problem cow.

Cluster Dipping



Ensure correct dilution rates when cluster dipping and automatic flushing systems are calibrated correctly.

For bucket dipping make a fresh solution after every 8 cows for best results.

Sterilisers available in all North Cork Stores!

FACT SCC from a problem cow can remain on a milk liner for more than 8 rows that's 8 cows per milking at risk of becoming infected. One dip in sterilizer in between cows reduces this risk completely!

MILK PRICE

The milk price for January 2021 is 32 cent per litre (inc. Vat) for milk of 3.60% Butterfat and 3.30% protein plus 0.5 cent per litre Supplementary Payment.

What can you Do to reduce the Risk of SCC Problems in your Herd!

1. Correctly disinfect all teats of all cows post milking.
2. Monitor SCC of all cows throughout lactation and apply appropriate dry cow therapy at the end of lactation.
3. High SCC cows need to be identified & marked.
 - Use milk recording, California Milk Test or send samples of suspicious cows to lab.
4. Stop the Spread.
 - High SCC cows must either be milked last or cluster dipped in peracetic acid after milking cow.
5. Discuss an appropriate treatment plan with vet.
6. Remove source of infection, consider closing down problem quarter by stopping milking it. This can take 2-3 weeks for sub-clinical cases, do not use dry cow tube.
7. Have milking machine service every 2000 milking or every 9-12 months.
8. Review milking practices and hygiene.
9. Keep cows' udders clean between milkings and maintain good teat condition.
10. Remove clusters carefully.
11. Cull cows with chronic problems.
12. Culture and identify the bacteria if there is a recurring herd problem.
13. Clip cows tails regularly.

Producing milk of Low SCC is a reflection of Good Udder Health & Mastitis Control in



TBC Management

Now more than ever good TBC management is paramount especially since Chlorine Products are no longer available. Silage, faeces, animal bedding and soil contain bacteria the challenge is to reduce the levels entering raw milk. Milk contaminated with bacteria from teat surfaces will in turn contaminate clusters, milk receivers, milk pipelines and bulk tanks. Without adequate cleaning, contamination will build up, particularly in hard to clean areas, such as pipeline joints.

High TBC can be a result of Poor Plant Hygiene, Bulk Tank Hygiene or Udder Hygiene. To minimise TBC we start with the cow.

Cow Hygiene:

- Clip Tails and Udders to reduce dirt.
- Keep paddocks gaps and collecting yards as well maintained and clean as possible.
- Keep parlour and dairy clean and hygienic.
- Ensure cubicle beds are cleaned and limed.
- Draw cows pre-milking checking for mastitis.
- Wash & wipe or Dry wipe teats prior to cluster attachment.
- Disinfect teats post milking.

Plant Hygiene:

- When changing detergent products/brands get serviceperson to flush line and residue from old and new products can react and cause major problems to milk TBC.
- Adequate levels of Hot water available
- Use regular descale with acid wash.
- A Proper plant washing routine in place have a plan of what wash cycles per milking.
- Service machine and change milk liners every 2000 milkings

Bulk Tank Hygiene:

- Make sure correct amount of detergent is in bowl or tank detergent is calibrated in auto.
- Start wash programme according to manufactures instructions.
- Ensure tanks are serviced regularly including the thermostat.
- Check tank for cleanliness and that sprayers are working correctly.

Herd Health Certificates

Please return page 1 & 3 (white pages) of signed herd health certificates from your vet to:

Darren Deasy, North Cork Creameries, Dromalour, Kanturk, Co. Cork

Managing Colostrum & Antibiotic Cows

- Keep freshly calved/Antibiotic cows as a separate group, to main herd – if possible
- Milk after the main herd – reduces risk of antibiotic/colostrum milk entering tank.
- Strip cows daily checking for mastitis until ready for tank.
- Use Bands/Tape/Spray to easily identify Fresh/Antibiotic cows.
- Use whiteboard to record events.

Maycillin Bolus

An anti-microbial herb containing allicin (active ingredient in garlic) anti-oxidants and microcrystalline cellulose. Broad spectrum anti-microbial properties. For udder health challenges without antibiotic use. Use for mastitis, repeat mastitis cases, high SCC. Irish manufacture with no withdrawals or residues.

Benefits:

- Better udder health.
- Reduced herd SCC.
- Reduced antibiotic use and cost.
- Higher milk price.
- No milk dumping.
- Reduced culling rate.
- Peace of mind in the milking parlour.

For best results give to younger cows with SCC problems in early lactation.

Available in all North Cork Co-Op Branches