

# If in doubt, leave it out!

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Early lactation is a high risk time for bulk tank residues, particularly antibiotics, as many of the cows calving down will have been treated with dry cow antibiotic several weeks ago and it can be a very busy time of the farming year. Milk contaminated with any residue of antibiotic must never enter the bulk tank.



## Remember!

### 1. Ensure colostrum and transition milk is not included in the bulk tank.

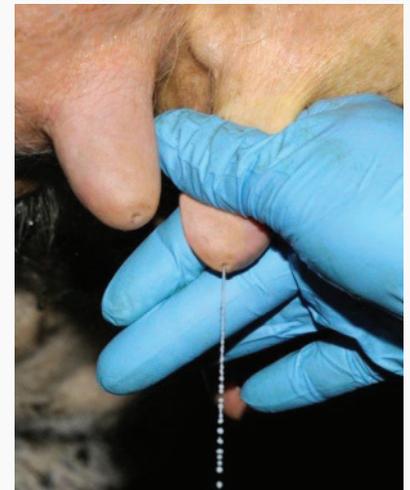
- Withhold milk for at least the **first 8 milkings** after calving- you can't visually assess colostrum levels.

### 2. Minimise residual teat sealer.

- At first milking after calving, strip any cows treated with internal teat sealers at least 10-12 times
- Withhold their milk for at least the **first 8 milkings** even if they didn't get antibiotic dry cow therapy (DCT).

### 3. Dilution is not the solution!

- Once a cow calves check the exact date that she was treated with antibiotic DCT.
- Ensure that the specified Minimum Dry Period days plus the Milk Withholding Time post-calving is adhered to before putting her milk in the bulk tank.
- Cows calving earlier than expected may not have completed the full Minimum Dry Period. For these cows, you must follow the product instructions.
- If you suspect an error in cow identity, treatment or calving date records, do not put the milk in the tank until the issue is resolved. Consult your milk processor immediately.



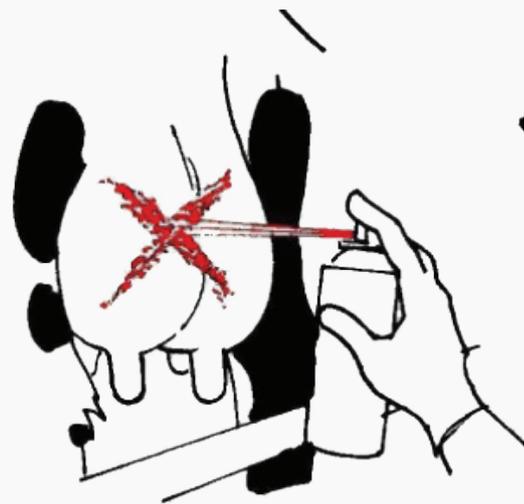
## ▶ CELLCHECK TIP OF THE MONTH

### 4. Double check any bought-in cows

- Make sure you ask the seller for exact treatment dates of any purchased cows. Find out what DCT products were used.

### 5. Talk with your staff and relief milkers.

- Make sure they know the routine for checking before putting the milk into the bulk tank.
- Clearly mark all cows being excluded from the tank, and make sure all staff understand the marking system.



Finally, if you suspect any cows have been milked into the tank by mistake notify your milk processor **immediately** to avoid contaminating a full silo of milk.

For more information on reducing the risk of residues in milk, see Management Note F in the [\*CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control\*](#)

## CellCheck Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control



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Management Note

## Guide to withholding periods after use of dry cow treatment

Antibiotic dry cow treatment is infused into each quarter immediately after the last milking of a cow's lactation. It is an important management procedure for treating existing udder infections and preventing new infections during the dry period.

All DCT products are registered with the Irish Medicines Board (IMB), and have a specified Minimum Dry Period (MDP) after treatment. If a cow calves before this time has expired, withholding periods for milk may be longer than usual. Withholding periods (WHP) are shown on the product labels, and also on the IMB website [www.imb.ie](http://www.imb.ie).

Follow these guides to minimise risk of antibiotic residues in meat or milk after use of DCT:

- **Ensure all cows to be culled have passed their recommended withholding period for meat.**
  - Withholding periods for meat are counted from the date the DCT is administered.
- **Check each cow that received DCT has passed her Minimum Dry Period when she calves.**
  - If not, mark her clearly and withhold milk from the bulk tank.
- **Keep colostrum and transition milk from all freshly calved cows out of the bulk tank.**
  - For milk quality reasons, all cows should have their colostrum and transition milk withheld from the bulk tank for at least the first eight milkings after calving. This applies to all cows, whether they received DCT or not.
  - For cows that did receive DCT (and their Minimum Dry Period has elapsed), a withholding period for milk after calving is specified for each product (see product labels or IMB website [www.imb.ie](http://www.imb.ie)).
- **If you suspect an error in cow identity, or treatment or calving date records, do not put the milk in the bulk tank until the issue is resolved. Consult your milk processor.**

There may be cases where a milk antibiotic check test may help avoid the possibility of an inadvertent inclusion of residue positive milk. You should immediately contact your milk processor representative to discuss appropriate action.

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