

Understanding your milk recording report

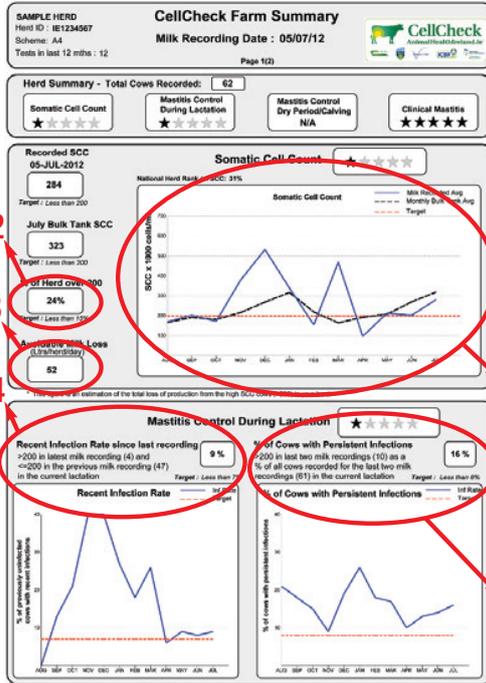
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Milk recording your cows regularly (at least 6 times per lactation), allows you to easily see what is happening within your herd, allowing you to identify both problem cows and top performers. It is also the most reliable way of collecting individual cow information required if a prescription for dry cow antibiotics is needed into the future.

To get the best value from milk recording, the first milk recording should be done within 2 months of calving and the last recording within a month of drying off, and the remainder done during the rest of the lactation.

Following each recording a CellCheck summary report is provided along with individual cow information. The CellCheck summary report is divided into 4 main sections, showing performance against recommended targets for each of the key areas of mastitis control.

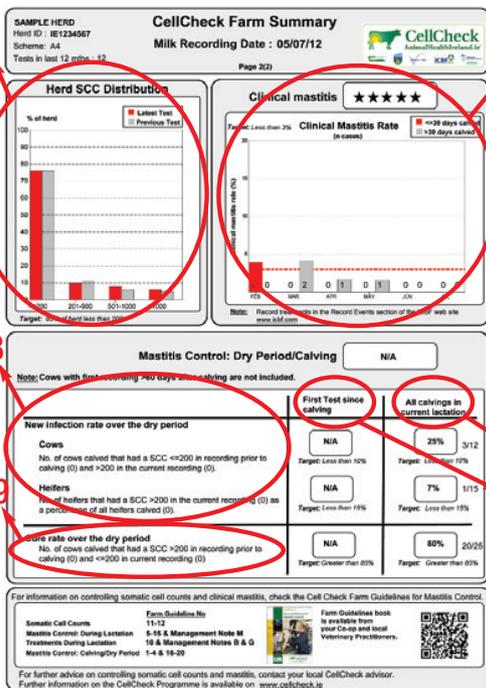
- The first section includes a graph displaying the current and recent SCC for your herd and also shows the percentage of your herd with an SCC over 200,000 cells/mL (target is to have less than 15% of herd over 200,000 cells/mL). These cows are likely to have mastitis and if a high proportion of your herd is over 200,000 cells/mL, this indicates a mastitis problem in your herd.
- The next section shows the spread of infection during lactation. By comparing consecutive SCC levels in each cow, recently infected cows can be identified and also the proportion of the herd that is chronically infected. The target here is to have less than 7% of your herd recently infected and less than 8% persistently infected.
- The third section of the report shows the herd SCC distribution in different SCC brackets. A higher proportion (target of 85%) with an SCC below 200,000 cells/mL, means better mastitis control. This section also analyses data from herds that record clinical cases on ICBF. If you upload your clinical mastitis records to ICBF (or via some farm software packages) by texting 'Mast' and cow's freeze brand to 089 4577663, it helps identify when the infection originated (the dry period, or during lactation).
- The final section shows for cows that have been recorded within 60 days of calving, how well mastitis is being controlled during the dry period and at calving. It is split into cows and heifers so it is easy to see if there is a problem in a particular group. The report shows how effective the dry period was by looking at cure rates during the dry period and also identifies any cow that picked up a new infection during the dry period.



Star rating summary: There is a star rating for each of the key areas of mastitis control. It is based on a combination of achieving targets (positive) and hitting intervention or trigger levels (negative). The aim should always be to have at least 4 stars in each area. Having 2-3 stars in a particular area means that there is room for improvement, while 1 star in any area means that you are substantially below target and you should seek advice from a CellCheck Advisor immediately on the best way to tackle the area identified. Leaving these areas unaddressed will result in significant problems in the long-term and will already be resulting in major financial losses.

Stars	What does this mean?
5	All measures on target for ≥ last 2 recordings; you're achieving sustained mastitis control – excellent!
4	All measures on target, good mastitis control
3	≤ half of measures on target but none breaking intervention levels, room for improvement
2	None on target but none breaking intervention levels, substantial room for improvement
1	Any of the measures breaking intervention levels, contact a CellCheck advisor today!

- Somatic Cell Count:** summary of the results from this milk recording.
- This displays your current and previous herd SCC (based on milk recording results). It also gives the most recently available bulk milk SCC data (if this is submitted to ICBF by your processor). The lower the SCC level, the better the control of mastitis in your herd.
 - Cows with SCCs > 200,000 are very likely to have mastitis. A high % of your herd with SCCs > 200,000 indicates a problem with mastitis. These can potentially act as a source of infection to other cows or impact severely on your herd SCC.
 - This calculation is based on the most recent milk recording test. It is a total of the estimated losses in production from the high SCC cows (>200) in your herd.
- Mastitis Control during Lactation:** This section assesses changes in the individual cow SCC during lactation. It will only include cows that have been recorded in this milk recording, and the previous one.
- This is the percentage of cows which had a low SCC (<200) at the last recording, but now have a high SCC (>200). A lower infection rate indicates a lower spread of infection and better mastitis control. In some cases an increase in recent infection rate may be due to cows persistently infected whose SCC fluctuates up and down.
 - This is the number of infected cows (>200) on this and the last recording, as a % of all cows recorded. High levels of persistent infection means that infected cows are not curing. Having many cows with persistent infections will act as a source of infection on your farm.



- Herd SCC Distribution:** this is the summary of the milk recording results at a herd level.
- This shows the proportion of your herd in different SCC brackets at the most recent recording. It also compares it to the last recording. It can be used to check if it is a few very high SCC cows causing your problem or if it is more of a generalised problem. The higher the % of cows with SCCs < 200, the better mastitis control within your herd.
- Clinical mastitis:** This section analyses data on farms that are recording clinical mastitis in ICBF Animal Events. The number of actual mastitis cases is shown at the bottom of each column.
- The graph tracks the rate of clinical mastitis in your herd. It takes into account all mastitis cases and how long a cow has been in milk. The lower the rate, the less chance your cows had of getting mastitis for that month. There are two columns-one for cows ≤ 30 days calved and one for > 30 days calved. Problems ≤ 30 days calved are more likely related to the dry period and calving period, whereas cases > 30 days in milk are more likely to have developed during lactation.
- Mastitis Control: Dry Period / Calving:** This section tracks how effectively you are controlling mastitis during the dry period and at calving. It is split into cows and heifers so you can see problems in different ages of animals calving. This section will only analyse data from animals that have been milk recorded within 60 days of calving. These analyses are most effective when using monthly milk recording data as the closer to calving that cows are recorded, the more accurate the information will be. The stars are calculated based on the performance for the current recording only.
- This shows how many animals have picked up a new infection either over the dry period or at calving. This calculation only looks at the cows that were uninfected at the last recording before dry-off (<200) and calculates what percentage are infected (>200) at their first recording post-calving. As heifers have no recording at dry off to compare with, all heifers are assumed to be uninfected before calving.
 - This investigates the percentage of cows cured over the dry period i.e. cows that were infected (>200) on the last recording before drying off, and are now uninfected, or cured (<200). Problems here may indicate poor response to dry cow therapy. An alternative cause of poor performance may be that even though the dry cow therapy has cured the previous infection the cow may then have acquired a new infection over the dry period or around calving. This may be a problem in your herd if the new infection rate over the dry period is also below target.
 - This column looks at the most recently calved cows in your herd. This will give you a short-term picture of mastitis control over the dry period / calving. Problems here provide an early warning and should be investigated even if the long-term performance is within target.
 - This column provides a running total for all the calved cows in your herd at the time of the current milk recording. This will give you a long-term perspective on how good your mastitis control has been over the entire dry period / calving period to date.

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