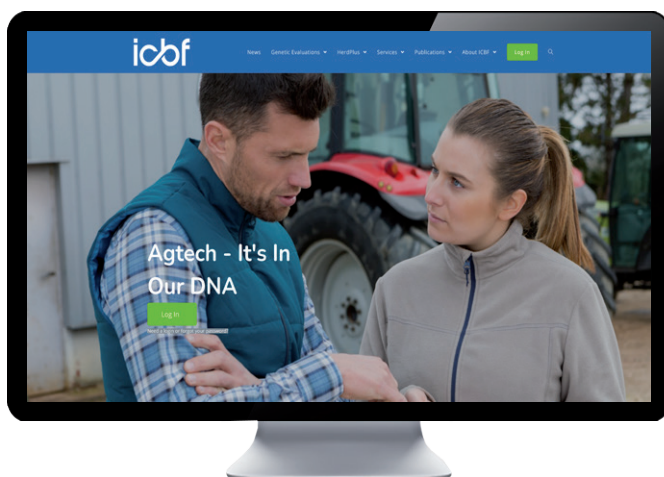


RECORDING CLINICAL CASES OF MASTITIS

Michelle McGrath, CellCheck Assistant Programme Manager

Recording all cases of clinical mastitis and the treatments administered is essential. When it comes to reviewing udder health performance during the year, investigating a herd problem, or measuring the success of drying off and the dry period, having records (preferably electronically) of all clinical cases will give you more accurate information. Very often we rely on memory but trying to recall those details in hindsight, often months later, is not easy.

Keeping regular, simple records is key. A common way of recording mastitis cases is on a whiteboard in the parlour, making it easy for anyone milking to be aware of cows that have been treated and what milk needs to be withheld. These records can be recorded electronically after the milking on ICBF or on whatever farm software you use. Having the information recorded electronically allows you to get even more value from your milk recording reports, as the 'Clinical Mastitis' graph on the CellCheck Farm Summary report will then provide you with valuable information and direction. The CellCheck Dashboard, which is available on the ICBF website, displays milk recording information similar to these reports, but one advantage of the dashboard is that it is interactive and allows the operator to look back in time at records, which helps develop a better picture of what is going on in the herd. The herdowner must give authorisation to allow others including farm advisors, veterinary practitioners and co-op advisors to access the information [click here](#).



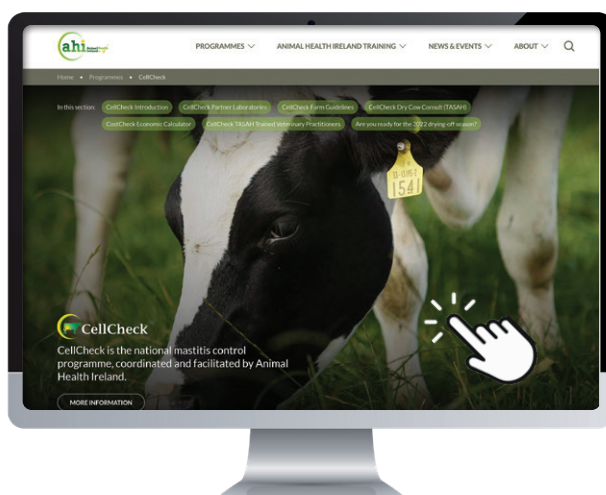
www.CellCheck.ie | www.icbf.com



Recording clinical mastitis events with the ICBF text-in service is quick and easy. This service is available to all herds whose mobile is registered on the ICBF database. To register your mobile number ring 1850-600-900. Then to record a case of mastitis for cow Freeze Brand 627, text the following message, Mast 627 to 089-4577663. The case of mastitis will be recorded as having occurred on the date the text was sent, unless you specify otherwise e.g. Mast 627 18/01.

Cases of clinical mastitis are identified based on clinical signs of inflammation (swollen quarters), systemic illness, or abnormal changes in the appearance of milk. Early detection and treatment of clinical cases reduces the risk of severe cases occurring and chronic infections developing. Subclinical infection is diagnosed on the basis of individual cow somatic cell count (SCC) levels, ideally from milk recording. The California mastitis test (CMT) is a simple cow-side test that is quick and low cost and may be used to define if the cow is likely to be infected. This can be a temporary solution in the absence of milk recording. However, interpretation of the results is subjective depending on SCC level and the pathogen involved.

It is important that there is ongoing collection and bacteriological testing of milk samples from animals with clinical or subclinical mastitis before treatment begins, both to guide clinical decisions and as part of the broader assessment of mastitis and antibiotic resistance patterns on the farm. These samples can be labelled, frozen and stored for up to 4 months and submitted to the laboratory at a later stage if necessary. A standard operating procedure for the treatment of in-lactation cases should be agreed with your vet. If more than 20% of cases require a second course of antibiotics, the protocol should be reassessed. An annual review of clinical cases should be done with your vet. If mastitis continues to be a problem, then a discussion about the factors contributing to suboptimal mastitis control is necessary. A strong professional relationship with all professional farm service providers is important to ensure a holistic approach to milk quality and broader animal health and welfare. The Cell Count Solutions consult is a free consult that is now available through AHI. This consult is an opportunity for you to begin the process of mastitis problem solving and to support you along the road of investigating and resolving mastitis issues. More information and registration for this consult can be found here [click here](https://animalhealthireland.ie/programmes/cellcheck/).



<https://animalhealthireland.ie/programmes/cellcheck/>

CELL COUNT SOLUTIONS

A FREE IN-LACTATION CONSULT FOR DAIRY FARMERS

- ✓ Would you like to reduce your SCC and improve milk quality?
- ✓ Is mastitis costing you money or creating problems for you or your milkers?
- ✓ Would you like an opportunity to create a herd-specific plan with your vet?
- ✓ Do you know you can avail of a free veterinary visit?

The Cell Count Solutions service is a free consult delivered by a trained veterinary practitioner, chosen by you, and is an opportunity for you to begin the process of mastitis problem-solving. It is also a first step in creating a multi-disciplinary team for your farm, to support you along the road of investigating and resolving mastitis issues. The consult will look at all relevant areas, including the cow, the milking routine, the environment, records, etc. so that you can develop a farm-specific plan.

You nominate the people you want to include, such as your milk quality or farm advisor, milking machine technician etc. This service is funded through the Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health and supported by the Rural Development Programme, and coordinated by Animal Health Ireland.

To register for the service, scan the QR Code

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