

PROTECT YOUR INCOME MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT

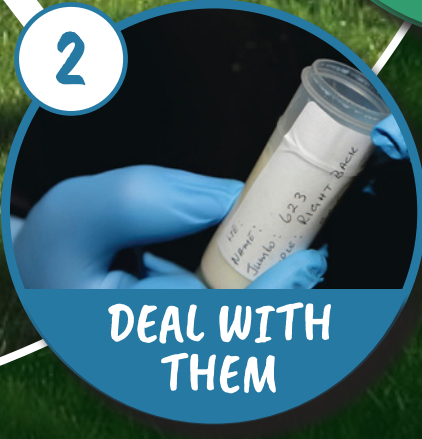


EARLY-LACTATION **MASTITIS**
COSTS MILK, TIME AND COWS

REMEMBER
1-2-3
FOR COWS OR
HEIFERS WITH
MASTITIS THIS
SPRING!



**PREVENT
SPREAD**



**DEAL WITH
THEM**



FIND THEM



CellCheck is the national mastitis control programme, coordinated and facilitated by Animal Health Ireland.





REMEMBER 1-2-3 FOR COWS OR HEIFERS WITH MASTITIS THIS SPRING!



1 - FIND THEM

Coming out of the dry period, the first 60 days is crucial to knowing your herd and which animals are in the best possible place to deliver for the season ahead. Early detection and treatment of clinical mastitis cases in the post-calving period reduces the risk of severe cases developing. It also reduces the likelihood of infection being passed to other cows, and the development of chronic infections.

HOW TO FIND THEM

- ✓ Fore-stripping = look for clots. Disinfect your gloves after finding any clots, to avoid spreading infection.
- ✓ California Mastitis Test (CMT) = detects high SCC. [Any CMT change = infection]
- ✓ Get your 1st milk recording before St. Patrick's Day. Don't wait for all cows to calve.

Check all cows (including 1st lactation animals) with the CMT before their milk enters the bulk tank. When you find any cases of mastitis, collect a sample of milk in a sterile fashion. Knowing which bacteria you are dealing with can help decide the best course of action, and how to prevent cases in the future.

TAKE A SAMPLE BEFORE TREATMENT

- ✓ Label the sample bottle with the cow number, quarter and date.
- ✓ Store it in the freezer and submit them later to a lab for culture if necessary e.g. more than five clinical cases per 100 cows in the first month of lactation.

It is also essential to keep good records of any clinical cases of mastitis, as most of these will have originated at drying off and/or during the dry period. Along with the early milk recording, this information is key to measuring the success of the dry period.

Recording the mastitis events on the ICBF website/HerdPlus app or your farm software is another way to get even more value from your milk recording reports.



EARLY DETECTION = FEWER CASES, LESS DUMPED MILK, LESS STRESS. HEIFERS INFECTED IN MONTH ONE WILL PRODUCE LESS MILK FOR LIFE!

SCAN OR CLICK



Know your problem cows



REMEMBER 1-2-3 FOR COWS OR HEIFERS WITH MASTITIS THIS SPRING!



2 - DEAL WITH THEM

There is no “one size fits all”, as factors such as the bacteria involved, the number of quarters affected, the lactation number and the history of the cow will all influence the outcome. However, there are some rules of thumb that can help:

CLINICAL MASTITIS

Prompt treatment of clinical cases is advisable. Discuss treatment plans, including selecting the appropriate antibiotic with your vet. Studies show that giving anti-inflammatories too can improve outcomes. Review the effectiveness of your protocol regularly-if more than 20% of cases require a second course of antibiotic, reassess your protocol with your vet.

SUBCLINICAL MASTITIS

These are the cows with a CMT reaction of any degree, or an SCC of 200,000 cells/mL or higher on milk recording. Treatment of subclinical infection is not always justified or warranted.

- ✓ 1st lactation animals that have a positive reaction on CMT in several quarters may just need a little more time. Repeat the CMT in 2-3 days. Milk her last to avoid any spread of infection.
- ✓ Younger animals with an infected quarter after calving may benefit from antibiotic treatment. Discuss these with your vet.
- ✓ If a cow had a high SCC in the previous lactation, and despite appropriate antibiotic dry cow treatment, is still high in the 1st 60 days after calving, she is chronically infected. Treatment is unlikely to be successful. Consider drying off a quarter, or culling asap.
- ✓ Do NOT breed from cows with chronic mastitis, and don't keep their daughters for breeding because susceptibility to mastitis has been shown to have a genetic component.



STORE YOUR SAMPLE BOTTLES BESIDE YOUR MASTITIS TUBES AS A VISUAL REMINDER. STERILE SAMPLE BOTTLES CAN BE SOURCED FROM YOUR VET/CO-OP

SCAN OR CLICK



Sterile milk sample video



REMEMBER **1-2-3** FOR COWS OR HEIFERS WITH MASTITIS THIS SPRING!



3 - PREVENT SPREAD

Mastitis infections happen when bacteria enter the udder through the open teat end during and after milking.

SOURCES OF BACTERIA

- ✓ Other cows (during milking, via clusters, hands etc.)
- ✓ The environment (mud, dung, cubicles, yards)

IT'S A NUMBERS GAME!



HYGIENE, HYGIENE, HYGIENE

Quality milk begins and ends with hygiene in the calving shed, in the cubicles and in the parlour. To do this:

Clean cows

- ✓ Clip tails & udders.
- ✓ Put cups on clean, dry teats.

Clean yards & housing

- ✓ Clean collecting yards after every milking.
- ✓ Lime & clean cubicles twice daily.

Clean milkers

- ✓ Wear gloves and apron.



KEEPING GOOD RECORDS AND EARLY MILK RECORDING SHOWS WHICH COWS WERE CURED, WHICH WEREN'T AND WHICH ONES PICKED UP NEW INFECTIONS OVER THE DRY PERIOD.

SCAN OR CLICK



Milk Recording Information



REMEMBER **1-2-3** FOR COWS OR HEIFERS WITH MASTITIS THIS SPRING!

3 - PREVENT SPREAD

Milking machine function

The milking machine is responsible for making sure that milk is gently and completely removed from the cows' udders. The liner is the only part that comes in direct contact with the cows' teats. It is critical that the machine is up to scratch.

Early season machine checks include:

- ✓ Have the machine tested and serviced by an MQI registered technician.
- ✓ Check claw air bleeds are clean.
- ✓ Clean regulator sponge.
- ✓ Renew liners if due.

Disinfect every teat, of every cow at every milking!

Bacteria in milk from infected quarters can contaminate the skin of other teats during the milking process. After a liner has milked an infected quarter, bacteria may be transferred to the next 6-7 cows milked with that cluster. Post-milking teat disinfection kills them. Teat disinfectants also include moisturising ingredients, which help to keep teat skin supple and healthy. Cover the entire teat... don't be stingy!

What you do in the first 60 days decides:

- ✓ Milk in the tank.
- ✓ Antibiotic use.
- ✓ Cow survival.
- ✓ Farm profit.

FIND IT EARLY

STOP IT SPREADING

PROTECT YOUR VALUABLE MILK

PROTECT YOUR INCOME MAKE EVERY DAY COUNT



EARLY-LACTATION **MASTITIS**
COSTS MILK, TIME AND COWS

REMEMBER
1-2-3
FOR COWS OR
HEIFERS WITH
MASTITIS THIS
SPRING!

1

FIND THEM

2

DEAL WITH THEM

3

PREVENT SPREAD

CellCheck is the national mastitis control programme, coordinated and facilitated by Animal Health Ireland.



SCAN HERE
FOR TOP TIPS

