

Managing Mastitis throughout Lactation

Your cows are under constant challenge from infections that can spell mastitis for them and trouble for you. Helping them negotiate their way safely through a season of uninterrupted production requires good understanding and careful management. How does your mastitis management during lactation stack up? Can you tick most or all of these boxes? If you can, then the chances are you'll be keeping production on track.

At Calving

- Cows calve onto clean pasture, avoiding mud or stand-off areas
- All quarters of all cows are milked out twice daily from first milking onwards
- Once newborn calves have received a good feed of colostrum, suckling is minimised
- Teat damage in cold wet weather is minimised

Colostrum milking

- Colostrum cows are kept as a separate mob
- Cows are milked out carefully and thoroughly for at least 8 milkings (10 for heifers)
- Cows are checked frequently for signs of clinical mastitis
- Milk is tested for subclinical mastitis (using RMT or conductivity meter) before cows join the main herd

During lactation

- Bulk tank somatic cell counts are monitored; any increases are investigated
- Effective teat spraying is practised after every milking – from season start to season finish
- Signs of clinical mastitis are watched for and cases treated promptly

Dealing with clinical cases

- Mastitis cases are marked and separated from the main mob during the entire treatment and withhold period
- All mastitis cases and treatments are carefully recorded
- Cows are treated with a mastitis product as per your vets' recommendation
- Repeat offenders which do not respond to treatment are culled
- Withholding periods are strictly observed
- Mastitis treatment and prevention programme is discussed with your veterinarian

Please turn over

Lactating Intramammary Therapy

1. Strip out the quarter fully before infusing antibiotic. This may be assisted by the injection of 2 – 3mL of oxytocin into the muscle prior to milking. A milk sample should be taken before the cow begins treatment. This can be frozen and cultured later if needed.



2. Ensure the treated cow is clearly marked. Record treatment date, product used, withholding periods and when the cow is clear to go back into the vat.



3. Clean all teat ends thoroughly (wipe teat end with a teat wipe or cotton wool soaked in 70% alcohol, followed by a spraying with 70% alcohol).



4. Hold the barrel of the syringe in one hand and remove cap by gently twisting. Do not bend the nozzle. Take care not to contaminate the nozzle.



5. Partially insert ($\leq 3\text{mm}$) the nozzle of the intramammary into the teat canal and apply steady pressure on the syringe until the full dose has been delivered into the quarter. Massage the infusion up into the udder.



6. Teat spray carefully with a concentrated, high quality product.