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Teagasc / ICOS Dairy Expansion Seminar

Animal health and milk quality: challenges and opportunities

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CellCheck















Programme objective

Programme Objective:

Enable the dairy industry to maintain a national average bulk milk somatic cell count of 200,000 cells/mL or less by 2020



Economics of SCC control

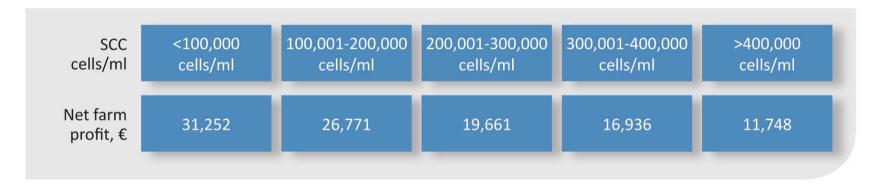


Table 4: The inverse relationship between net farm profit and SCC



Economics of SCC control

Producers and processors

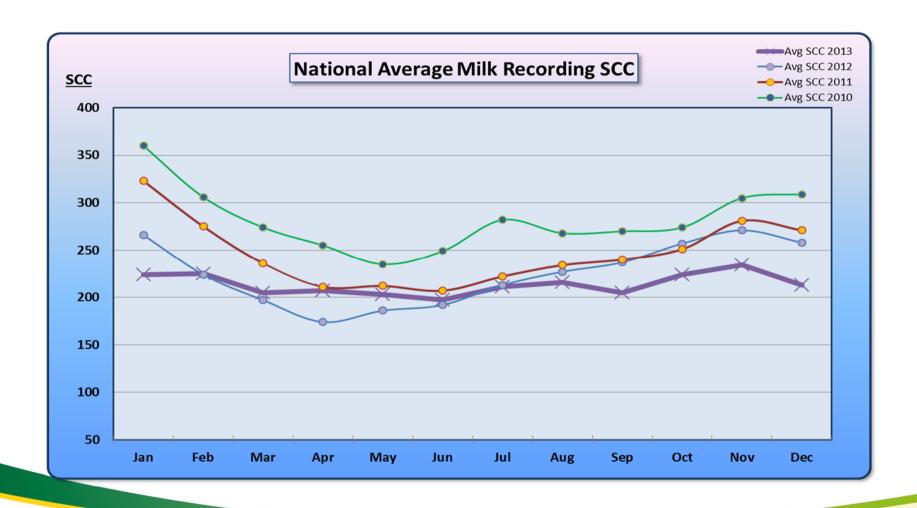
A reduction from >400,000 to <100,000 cells/mL, \rightarrow

Increase in overall returns to the farm of 4.8 c/L (farm and processor)

A 10% reduction in national cell count → €37.6 million savings for the Irish dairy industry

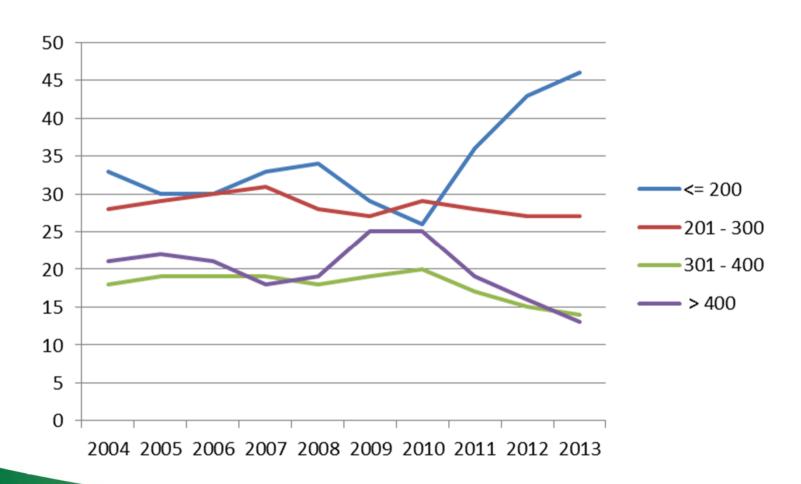


SCC performance of milk-recorded herds





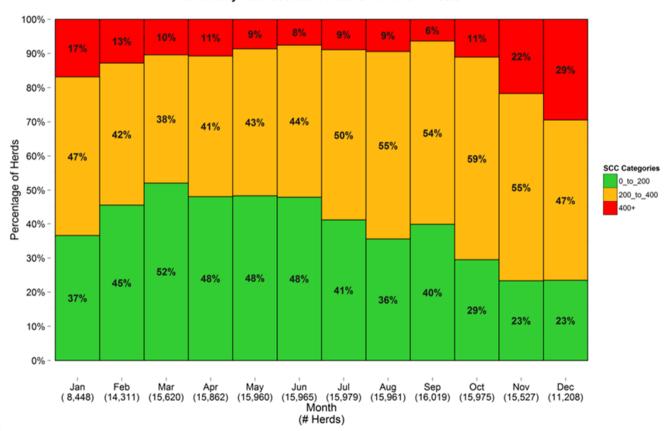
SCC performance of milk-recorded herds





National SCC database (2013) HERDS

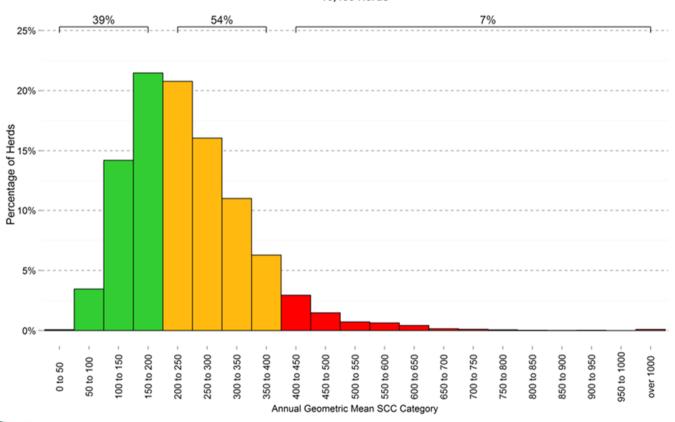
9. Monthly Herd Geometric Mean SCC: All SCC Tests





National SCC database (2013) HERDS

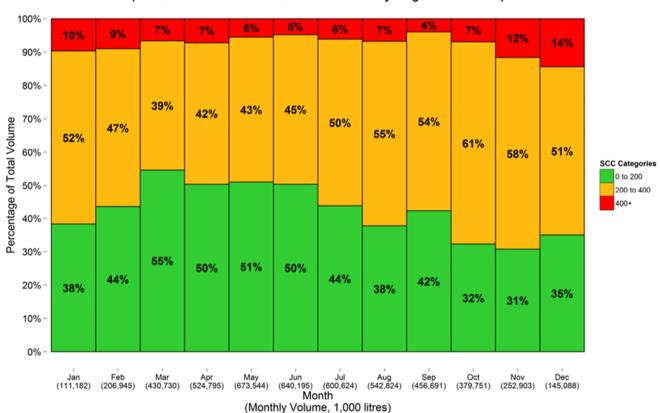
8. Annual Herd Geometric Mean: All SCC Tests 16,466 Herds





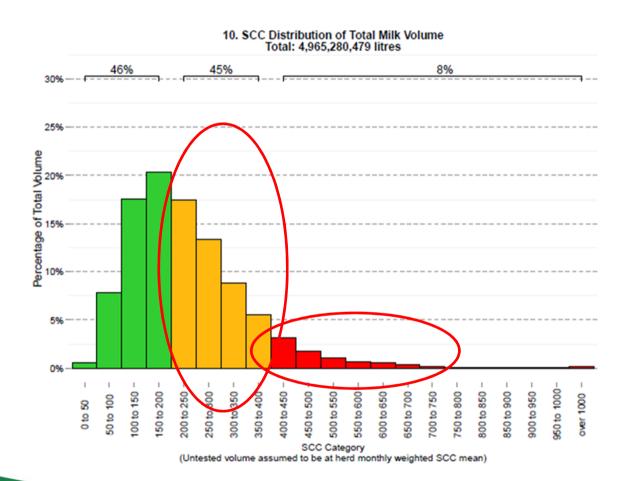
National SCC database (2013) VOLUME

11. Total Monthly Volume (Untested volume assumed to be at herd monthly weighted SCC mean)





National SCC database (2013) VOLUME





Johne's disease





Clinical effects

Depressed milk production
Increased cull rates
Increased susceptibility to
other diseases
Diarrhoea & weight loss







International perspectives

Global constraint on livestock production

Eradication is NOT feasible for any endemically infected country/region

Control IS feasible at least at the individual farm level



Overall programme objective

Programme Objective:

To establish a voluntary national programme for Johne's disease that enables participating herd owners to:

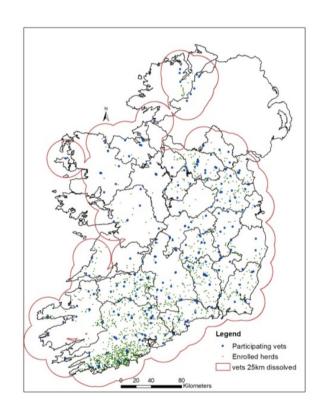
Have increasing confidence in the absence of infection in their herds; and

To achieve significant control or elimination where present.



Pilot programme components

- ~ 400 vets trained
- ~ 1,800 herds enrolled
- 9 processors participating
- Cost sharing
- Significant research
- Major review in 2015





Pilot programme components

Enrolment

On-farm risk assessment

Annual individual animal testing Blood (1 sample)
Milk (2 samples)

Data sharing with ICBF database

Disposal of positive animals



On-farm risk assessment

Bioexclusion

> Slurry management

Commonage

Contract rearing

Animal movement practices

Calving area

Multiple cows in calving area

Manure buildup

Cow cleanliness

Proximity to sick animals

Calving not in designated area

Speed of calf removal

Preweaned

Colostrum management

Whole milk source

Group pens

Adult faeces exposure

Heifers & Breeding Bulls

Faeces exposure

Hygiene score

Cows

Cow area hygiene

Cow cleanliness



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