



Mid Season Mastitis Control

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Smarter Milking Webinar
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Objectives

- Overview of contagious and environmental bacteria- transmission and prevention.
- Importance of quick identification and recording of clinical cases.
- Using individual cow SCC data for management decisions.

What causes mastitis during lactation?

- Both contagious and environmental bacteria cause mid lactation mastitis.
- Contagious: *Staph. aureus* and *Strep. agalactiae* – transmitted during milking.
- Environmental: *E. coli* and *Strep. uberis*
Main sources are faeces and mud-wet & dirty environmental conditions.

Transmission of contagious bacteria

- Transmitted between cows during milking from infected milk.
- Spreads to non infected quarters by:
 - milkers' hands,
 - liners,
 - cross flow of milk between clusters
- Damaged teat ends and poor machine function contribute to transmission.



Preventing transmission of contagious bacteria

- Proper post milking teat disinfection.
- Wear gloves- easier to keep clean and bare hands are a reservoir for bacteria.
- Routine maintenance of milking machine.
- Change liners regularly.
- Healthy teat ends- bacteria multiply on rough teat ends and attract flies.
- Milk infected cows last or use a separate cluster.



Transmission and prevention of environmental bacteria

- Increased risk from these bacteria when cows are in contact with a wet & dirty environment.
- Minimise build-up in high traffic areas- water troughs, gateways, roadways/paths, collecting yards, poor field conditions.
- Keep udders clean- clip tails.
- Only wash dirty teats and dry before attaching clusters.
- Maintain good teat condition (flies)

NATIONAL MASTITIS CONTROL PROGRAMME



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Identification of new cases

- Rise in bulk tank SCC- monitor every test result.
- Monitor filter for clots.
- Fore strip high SCC cows and use CMT to identify problem quarter following milk recording, checking for abnormal milk.
- Monitor clinical signs such as hot swollen quarters, cow off form, lameness.
- Collect milk sample for culture before treating.
- Record all cases ideally on ICBF.

How good is your mastitis control?

>400,000 cells/ml	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Crisis point•€€ Gains to be made•Infection controlling farmer
250,000-400,000 cells/ml	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Changes need to be made NOW•€€ Gains to be made•Infection controlling farmer
150,000-250,000 cells/ml	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Manageable•Precarious balance for control•Vulnerable to challenge•€€ Gains to be made
<150,000 cells/ml	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Excellent•Farmer controlling infection

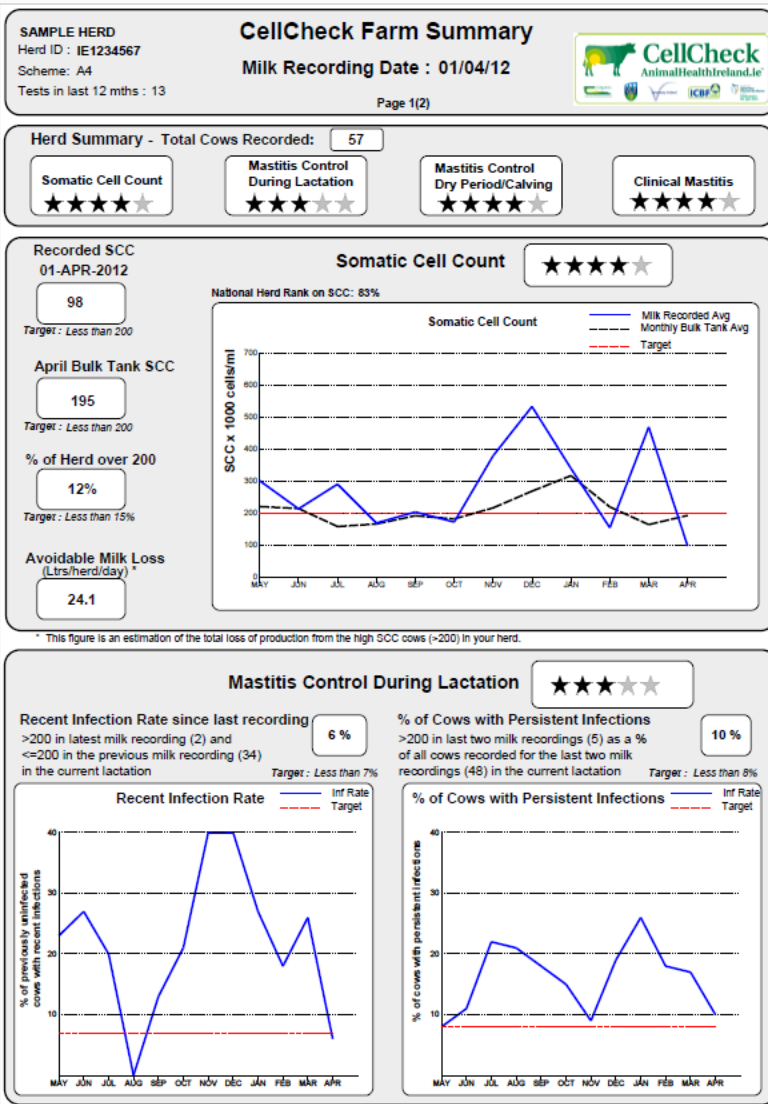


The importance of milk recording

- Regular milk recording allows you to monitor each cow over entire lactation.
- At least 6 recordings/lactation
- Within 2 months of calving, within a month of drying off and 4 times in between.
- Identify chronic cases and cows that may be suitable for selective dry cow therapy.
- Some cows can't be cured and are high risk to healthy cows.



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Any Questions?

Thank you for your attention.