

Managing Mastitis

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Prevention is key, early detection minimizes impact.

Healthy cows provide an important base in prevention, correct BCS, avoid stress.

Dry cow therapy is important to cure existing infections and prevent new infections.

Check udder hygiene easily with the score system.



Score 1 = Free of dirt
Score 2 = 2-10% of udder
Score 3 = 10-30% of udder
Score 4 = >30% of udder

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Monitor regularly: pre-strip Use Californian Mastitis Test, visible signs, check milk filters, check cow and herd data.

Know your enemy: Bacteria need water, nutrition, (body) temperature & correct pH

- Clinical mastitis, visible signs: on cow & milk
- Subclinical mastitis, high SCC cows no visible signs on cow or milk, still significant milk loss and risk of bacteria spread
- Contagious mastitis, usually cell counts >200
 - Prevention focusses on milking hygiene, high SCC last, dip post milking
- Environmental mastitis, usually cell counts <200
 - Prevention focusses on cow environment, stocking densities, pre-milking hygiene & barrier dip

Milking cows correctly:

Good udder preparation results in milking a clean, dry well stimulated teat.

Stimulation: at least 10-15 seconds intense teat contact and pre-lag time of 60-90 seconds.

Pre-strip for early detection but work hygienically.

Attach gently and accurately, without sucking air.

Liners are the only contact point with the cow, they must function well and replace in time.

Teat ends should be smooth without thick rings, checked with the 5-point scoring system:



Teat dip/spray is the most cost-effective preventative measure, registered products are proven to have good disinfection & skin care properties.

Cow bedding should provide sufficient cow comfort and must be hygienic.

Make sure the milking machine is well maintained, this ensures proper vacuum levels, well working pulsation for liner functioning and correct take off levels.

The 12 golden rules for milking provide good guidance.

If any questions, contact your local DeLaval dealer