

Reducing Clinical Mastitis in the Dairy Herd

Dairy farmers have made significant progress in reducing cell counts but clinical mastitis rate is actually increasing year on year

Few farms achieve the target of 30 cases per 100 cows per year.

The “five point plan” has reduced the incidence of contagious mastitis, but environmental mastitis, caused mainly by E Coli and Streptococcus uberis, now accounts for 65% of mastitis diagnosed on farm.

Up to 60% of mastitis occurring on some farms arises from environmental bacteria which infect the udder during the dry period but don't cause mastitis until the following lactation.

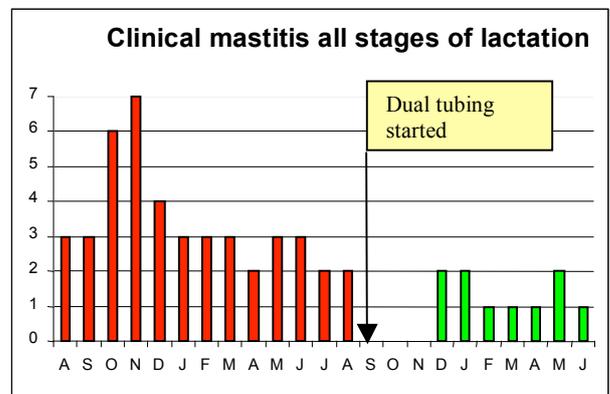
What will help to reduce the number of cases of environmental mastitis is to use the teat sealant Orbeseal alongside your normal dry cow antibiotic tube at drying off - so called “Dual Tubing”.

The following case history shows what can be achieved with Dual tubing.

Background of The Farm:

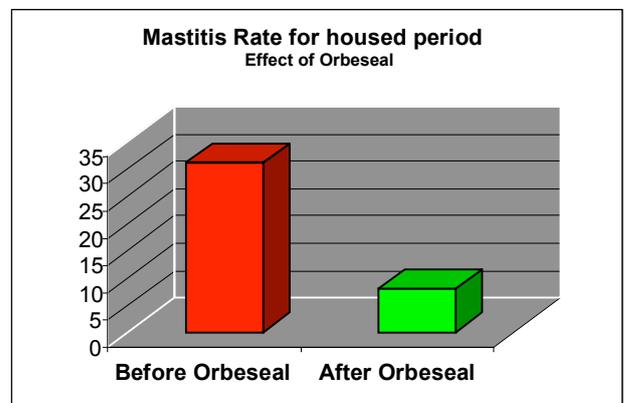
- 300 cow all year calving with an average yield of 9,000 litres.
- Cell count of 150,000- so good control of contagious mastitis.
- Mastitis rate of 46 cases per 100 cows per year (target 30).
- Several toxic mastitis cases.

The results of introducing Dual tubing:



The overall level of clinical mastitis has fallen by 60% from 46 cases to 18 cases per 100 cows per year.

The amount of mastitis in the housed period reduced from 31 cases per 100 cows down to 8, a 74% reduction.



Calf Pneumonia



Calf pneumonia tends to peak in November, December and January and control is best achieved by attention to general husbandry practices, especially ventilation and correctly timed administration of vaccines.

There are several vaccines available; please speak to one of the vets about which would be the most appropriate for your farm.

Forthcoming Client Meetings:

29th November at the Bank House Hotel
7.30pm

Sheep Meeting:

Practical Nutrition for Sheep Farmers

4th December at the Bank House Hotel
7.30pm

Beef Meeting:

Getting the most out of Suckler Cows and Calves