

October 2010

Mastitis: A Case Study

One of our large, high yielding Dairy herds recently suffered an outbreak of mastitis.

Mastitis is usually well controlled on this unit, running at 35 cases per 100 cows per year, with a cell count of below 100.

The unit takes a very pro-active approach to controlling mastitis

- All cows are dual tubed with dry cow and a teat sealant.
- Complete clinical mastitis records.
- Herd is enrolled on the Clover Cell Check service offered by the practice.
- Thorough milking routine which includes pre spraying and drying with individual, laundered fabric cloths.
- Every cow which has mastitis has a pre treatment milk sample taken and frozen the following way:



Milk Sampling Method

- Label sterile tube with cow ID, date and quarter sampled.
- Make sure udder clean and dry.
- Scrub the teat end with surgical spirit soaked cotton wool until clean.
- Discard first 2-3 squirts of milk.
- Hold pot at angle to avoid debris falling in and collect 2-3 squirts of milk.
- Refrigerate until delivered to vets or freeze and submit as a batch.

Milk Sample Results

Cause of Mastitis	No. of cases
Strep. Uberis	1
E.coli	3
Bacillus Cereus	3
Klebsiella	3
No Growth (these are usually E. Coli cases).	2

Conclusions

- Good, clean samples producing pure growths of bacteria were obtained indicating that this farm follows the sampling guidelines!
- It is vital to collect mastitis samples from every case, freeze and then submit as a group. Previously *Strep. uberis* has been the major problem on this farm but not in this current outbreak; if we had only sampled one case it could have been the only *Strep. uberis* case!
- *E. coli*, *Bacillus* and *Klebsiella* are all environmental causes of mastitis - housing hygiene and teat preparation prior to milking need to be looked at.
- *Bacillus mastitis* can be caused by infected Brewers grains which were fed on this unit.
- *Klebsiella mastitis* is commonly caused by infected wood based bedding such as sawdust. Sawdust was used as bedding on this unit but was dry and stored very well, therefore thought not to be a factor.

Important Note about TB Testing!

Please be aware that from 22nd December until 3rd January inclusive we will be unable to book in any routine TB Tests due to the Christmas and New Year break. If you are likely to need a test completing around this time please contact the Farm Office at the earliest possible opportunity to avoid disappointment

Attention all Derbyshire Dairy Farmers

We wrote to all Derbyshire Dairy Farmers a few months ago about the East Midland Dairy Improvement Partnership. This involves input from ourselves with herd health planning and a resource efficiency review by the Dairy Group.

Due to limited uptake of this project it has been adapted so farmers can choose to have just the veterinary section of the project for a **bargain cost of £156 plus VAT.**

What do you get for your money?

- £250 to spend on lab work-Mastitis sampling, Metabolic profiles, Johne's screening etc.
- Two three hour fully paid vet visits to collect some basic herd health data then the rest of the time to spend on whatever you feel is your priority concern, including any relevant sample collection.

Farms must be enrolled on this project before the 1st December and places are limited.

Please speak to John Cammack, John Kirk or Gill if you wish to take part.

Forthcoming Farmers Meeting

We are having a Farmers meeting on Thursday 21st October at the Doveridge Working Mens Club on "Infectious Diseases of Cattle-BVD, Leptospirosis and IBR."

This meeting will start at 8pm and there will be a cold buffet to follow.