

TOP FARMERS KNOW-HOW

HAVE A USEFUL DRY COW CONSULT



OUTCOMES OF A COMPREHENSIVE MILK QUALITY CONSULT WITH YOUR VET:

- Assess current mastitis management on your farm
- Set realistic short and long-term mastitis management goals
- Identify specific actions to take—plan how you will monitor and review

TO ASSESS CURRENT MASTITIS MANAGEMENT:

- 1. Clinical Mastitis (from computerised/written records AND vet invoices)**
 - a. Count total cases/month (%)
 - b. Count repeat cases (%)
 - c. Count treatment failures (%)
- 2. Subclinical Mastitis**
 - a. Review BMSCC records
 - b. Review herd test records OR
 - c. Review recent RMT results (Rapid Mastitis Test)
- 3. Discuss preferences about lactating and dry-cow treatments**

TO SET MASTITIS MANAGEMENT GOALS:

- 1. Refer to industry benchmarks: dry-off**
 - a. > 70% cure rate*
 - b. < 1% clinical cases during the dry period*
 - c. < 8% clinical mastitis rate / month over calving*
 - d. < 150,000 cells / ml average BMSCC*
 - e. No mastitis-related deaths after drying-off

* Relate to triggers on Dairy NZ SmartSAMM Mastitis Focus Report

2. Refer to industry benchmarks: shed management

- a. > 85% heifers with SCC < 120,000¹ at each herd test
- b. > 80% cows with SCC < 150,000¹ at each herd test
- c. < 1% / month clinical cases after calving¹
- d. Reduce or eliminate grades

TO IDENTIFY ACTIONS: decide who, when, how for each step. Plan to monitor and review.

SUMMARY OF WHAT TO BRING TO YOUR DRY COW CONSULT:

- Clinical case records
- Bulk milk somatic cell count trends
- Herd test information /RMT results
- Mastitis treatment preferences
- Goals for mastitis management (ref: industry benchmarks)

FOR MORE:

Visit [TopFarmers.co.nz](https://www.TopFarmers.co.nz)

Or find us on YouTube by searching: **TopFarmersNZ**

Or visit: [msd-animal-health.co.nz](https://www.msd-animal-health.co.nz)

REFERENCES:

1. DairyNZ Smart SAMM. (2020). Guideline 14: Decide dry cow management strategy. Retrieved from www.dairynz.co.nz.
2. DairyNZ Smart SAMM. (2020). Guideline 12: Use individual cow SCC for management decisions. Retrieved from www.dairynz.co.nz.

