

# 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 < 120,000<sup>1</sup> at each herd test
- b. > 80% cows with SCC < 150,000<sup>1</sup> at each herd test
- c. < 1% / month clinical cases after calving<sup>1</sup>
- 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). Technote 14: Decide dry cow management strategy. Retrieved from [www.dairynz.co.nz](https://www.dairynz.co.nz).
2. DairyNZ Smart SAMM. (2020). Technote 12: Use individual cow SCC for management decisions. Retrieved from [www.dairynz.co.nz](https://www.dairynz.co.nz).

