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Guide to choosing an appropriate dry cow treatment (DCT) strategy

Step

1

Treatment of existing infections in cows – antibiotic DCT

- › Has your Bulk Milk Cell Count been <250,000 cells/ml the past 3 months
- › Do you have 4 or more Individual Cow Cell Counts (ICCCs) for each cow for the year and is at least one result within 80 days of planned dry off date?
- › Are your clinical case records complete and accurate?
- › Do you have less than 25 clinical cases per 100 cows over the last 12 months
- › Does PCR testing and individual cow milk cultures indicate that Strep ag is NOT present on your farm?

YES TO ALL

If you answered YES to ALL of these questions, you could use part herd antibiotic Dry Cow Treatment. Treat all quarters of any cow that had clinical mastitis during lactation and/or had a high ICCC. Consult with your veterinarian to establish an appropriate ICCC threshold.

NO TO ANY

If you answered NO to ANY of these questions, use whole herd antibiotic Dry Cow Treatment: treat all quarters of all cows in your herd.

For both part herd and whole herd antibiotic DCT you should consult with your veterinarian as to the most appropriate antibiotic to use in your herd and review your administration protocols

Step

2

Prevention of new infection in cows – internal teat sealant

- › In their first 2 weeks after calving, do 5% or less of cows have clinical mastitis? OR Did you treat 5 or less cases of clinical mastitis per 100 cows in the months your herd was calving?
- › Are you using whole herd antibiotics Dry Cow Treatment?

YES TO ALL

If you answered YES to BOTH of these questions, discuss any potential changes to drying off and calving management as to whether Internal Teat Sealants are still required to reduce risk of new infections.

NO TO ANY

If you answered NO to ANY of these questions, use whole herd Internal Teat Sealant: treat all quarters of all cows in addition to your chosen antibiotic Dry Cow Treatment.

Step

3

Prevention of new infection in heifers – Internal Teat Sealant

- › Did less than 5% of heifers have clinical mastitis in their first 2 weeks after calving OR Did you treat less than 3 cases per 50 heifers in the months your herd was calving

YES TO ALL

If you answered YES to this question, discuss any potential changes to heifer calving management as to whether Internal Teat Sealants are required to reduce risk of new infections.

NO TO ANY

If you answered NO to this question, consider the use Internal Teat Sealant in your heifers, 4–6 weeks prior to calving.