

# The Dairy Business

By Newton Bair

## MASTITIS, MICROBES AND MANAGEMENT

Like the common cold in humans, mastitis is the most common ailment of the dairy cow. With all of the modern technology and know-how aimed at preventing or curing this scourge of dairying, it is still rampant on many dairy

farms. The interesting thing is, some good common know how can keep it under control.

On a farm with good management, their somatic cell count is consistently under 250,000 and only rarely does a cow have to be culled because of an incurable udder infection. How do they do it?

Lets look at some of the low SCC herds, and observe their management. We might just pick up a few practices which contribute to their success. Don't be too surprised when you discover that you knew that all long. Be honest enough to ask yourself whether you actually do what you knew to be correct.

Four of the highest producing herds in Lebanon County have consistant SCC counts averaging under 350,000, which receives a code of about 2.5 on the DHIA report. These are not the only ones this low, the county average is only coded at 2.9, which represents a count of less 400,000. These herds are averaging between 18,000 and 20,000 pounds of milk per cow. They could not do this with a high somatic cell count.

First, a clean, dry bed  
Some of the management practices of these top herdsmen are entirely too obvious — like a clean place to lie down. The organisms that cause mastitis are

just about everywhere, but they are billions, yes, billions, of times more numerous in any kind of dirt. So, lesson number one is, keep the udder out of the dirt.

A clean, dry stall mat with minimal bedding is a good alternative to a clean, dry, thickly bedded area to lie down. Outdoor loafing lots are not always the best environment for an udder — remember they contain a couple of years buildup of urine, feces, and other contagion that can harbor an astronomical number of infectious organisms, unseen but ready to invade the milk factory. The more they can lay their tender teats on a soft, clean, disinfected surface, the lesser the incidence of invasion by microscopic monsters.

Milking practices  
None of these top cowmen allow a machine to keep sucking on a cow more than about six minutes, on an average. A few heavy milkers might take a little longer. That's okay as long as there is milk

coming down. Every second the machine keeps tugging away after the udder is drained of milk, the chance of drawing some microbes into the udder increases and you are in for trouble.

Lesson number two — aim to have the milker attached to an udder if, and only if, there is milk let down. Not before, not after. Work with nature here, by understanding the physiology of the udder, and the psychology of the cow.

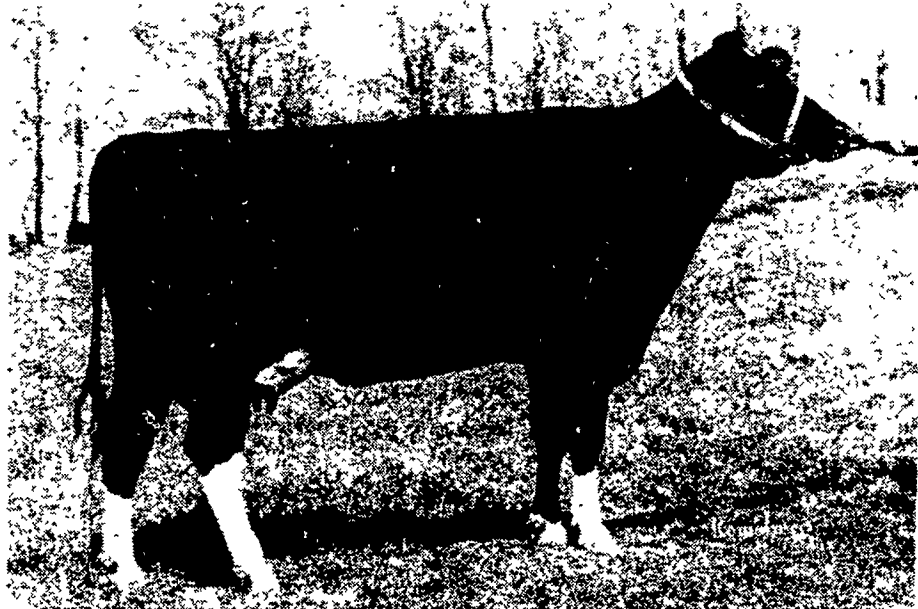
Milking machines.  
Each of the top four dairymen use a different make of machine! So we won't argue about the name on the milker system. One of them actually uses a hybridized system, but I can assure you that the parts fit together like a precision machine, and his only problem is knowing which supplier to call when he needs parts.

The secret here is proper installation of the equipment and frequent and thorough service and maintenance. Irregular pulsation, high or low vacuum, uneven air flow, and back-flooding of milk lines are prime causes of stress on the teat ends. Any of these faults can cause bacteria to back flood into the teat end, and away we go with a flare up.

Install them properly, and service and inspect the milking machine system often.

(Turn to Page D20)

## HIGH REPEATABILITY SIRES For A Dependable Breeding Program



A Daughter of 29H2785  
**MILESTONE:**

Springcroft  
Miss Ollie

OC EX-90  
4-2 295d  
20,194m  
3.8% 760bf

### Current ABS Sires With 100 Daughters or More:

Code #	Name	Class	PDS	PDM	% Test	PDF	Rpt.	dtrs.	PDT	TPI	Rpt.
29H1881	Bootmaker	EX-94 GM	+\$141	+1253m	-.07%	+35f	99%	27,634	+1.02	+370	99%
29H2417	Art	GP-80 GM	+\$162	+1010m	+.14%	+58f	99%	3,462	-.46	+315	98%
29H2501	Imp. Knight	VG-86	+\$152	+1080m	+.06%	+49f	99%	2,218	-.43	+292	95%
29H2510	Demand	VG-87	+\$193	+2173m	-.31%	+29f	99%	4,598	+.70	+460	99%
29H2719	Boot-Nick	EX-93 GM	+\$130	+1119m	-.04%	+34f	97%	972	+1.59	+391	92%
29H2775	Triple Threat	VG-89 GM	+\$ 79	+ 359m	+.14%	+34f	98%	1,257	+2.31	+339	97%
29H2785	Milestone	VG-86 GM	+\$135	+1429m	-.18%	+24f	96%	523	+1.23	+371	93%
29H2786	Mars	EX-95	+\$174	+1716m	-.17%	+36f	87%	150	+1.79	+493	69%
29H2825	Ormsby	VG-87	+\$ 96	+1138m	-.19%	+12f	92%	242	+.19	+213	89%
29H2811	Chris	VG-85	+\$179	+2030m	-.30%	+26f	87%	128	+.09	+384	80%
29H3050	Jordan	GP-83	+\$163	+1698m	-.20%	+30f	89%	174	+.33	+367	85%
29H3200	Chip	VG-85 GM	+\$132	+1402m	-.18%	+23f	99%	2,365	-.75	+222	95%
29H3350	Rumler	EX-92	+\$147	+1252m	-.04%	+39f	83%	135	+.86	+375	63%
Four more sires that should have 100 or more daughters in their next proof:											
29H2694	Bud	GP-80	+\$138	+1090m	+.00%	+40f	81%	86	+1.16	+375	56%
29H2875	Excellon	GP-82	+\$128	+1036m	-.01%	+36f	84%	94	+.39	+300	81%
29H2905	Cal	VG-86 GM	+\$177	+1767m	-.18%	+36f	84%	98	+.00	+373	81%
29H3017	Belle	VG-86	+\$141	+1126m	-.01%	+40f	74%	98	+1.53	+405	76%

These high repeatability sires, and others are available from these ABS representatives.



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