

# Mastitis meeting

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secretory cells where there is scar tissue." A high SCC indicates that the milk secretory tissue is being replaced with scar tissue, according to Hutchinson. Dairymen need to initiate control of new infections.

Hutchinson observed that the majority of new infections occur in the two weeks following drying off and then again right before and after freshening. They can be defined as either contagious organisms or environmental organisms, he explained. Contagious organisms are the Strep Ag, Staph Aureous, and Strep Non-Ag that live inside the udder and are spread from cow to cow during the milking process.

Environmental organisms are the coliforms that can live in stalls, mud, water, ponds, and are present in any dirty environment. Hutchinson explained that the environmental organisms can be treated in an udder and when cleared up the udder is rid of them. However, with the contagious organisms the udder always carries them and a chronic cow must usually be culled to prevent spreading within the herd.

Hutchinson went on to discuss the different methods and potential for control of the various types of mastitis.

"I recommend dry treating every cow, every quarter," Hutchinson stated. Dry treatment works against the contagious organisms and is designed to prevent a cow from becoming infected during her dry period. Although some herds may experience resistance problems, Hutchinson added, the major products on the market today will work in 90% of the herds.

Teat dipping kills the bacteria left on the end of the teat or on the milk drop on the teat after milking. This practice also works on the contagious organisms in the herd. "It's very possible by using teat dipping, of getting the contagious bacteria down in your herd up to 70% over a number of years," Hutchinson stated.

The better teat dips, he advised, are the 1% iodine teat dips and those containing chlorhexidine in water of glycerine. It is not necessary to change teat dips if the dip seems to be working in the herd and a good teat dip will not carry infection from quarter to quarter, Hutchinson added. He also stated that Chlorox was a good product to use but not approved for this use. A four percent dilution is needed.

In choosing a product, Hutchinson advised selection on the amount of information and research given on a specific

product. Regarding cold weather and teat dipping, Hutchinson advised parlor and freestall situations to cease dipping when temperatures drop below 20 degrees, but to resume again as soon as possible. Barrier teat dips tend to be more effective on environment organisms, but not as effective on contagious organisms.

Clean dry udders and clean stall beds reduce the amount of environment organisms infecting the udder. Hutchinson added that the type of bedding used does make a big difference in controlling mastitis and is especially important in hot weather conditions. Hydrated lime can also be used in stalls to dry them out somewhat, Hutchinson added, but too much of the lime in wet conditions can lead to chapping and burning the teat ends.

Recent research has shown that backflushing does not control mastitis significantly, although it has been shown to flush out the mycoplasma organisms prevalent in only a few herds. Pre-dipping cows before milking is also another new practice with few merits. It does have some advantage in killing environment organisms but is known to increase the iodine levels in milk.

Intramammary devices are also gaining some interest as the research progresses. Not on the market yet, the IMD's elevates the SCC and has some effect in con-

trolling the environment organisms.

"The ultimate way of getting rid of mastitis," according to Hutchinson, "is culling". This method will free the herd from Strep Ag, he continued. With Strep Ag Staph, "once they get in the udder, they stay in the udder, always shed and spread around," Hutchinson explained.

Coliform or environment organisms can be cured in the udder, but will stay in the surroundings. "Once you're free of Strep Ag, you're always free unless you buy a cow with it in her udder," Hutchinson repeated. Vaccinations for the Staph bacteria have also been found to not do much good, according to Hutchinson. The vaccinations cannot get the immunity levels in the milk in high enough levels.

Hutchinson recommended taking a milk sample and saving it for a culture at the onset of any clinical mastitis. If the initial treatment that a dairyman tries first does not work, a culture can be done and any antibiotic can be used that will work on that particular mastitis organism. Cultures can not be done on milk that has been treated. It is important to take a milk sample before treating the mastitis.

The different types of exotic and coliform mastitis that Hutchinson discussed were: Klebsiella, Pseudomonas, Serratia, Prototheca, and Mycoplasma. The coliform mastitis grows in manure and contaminated environments and is resistant to many common antibiotics and

hard to treat.

These types of mastitis produce toxins in the cow who experiences fever of 105 degrees plus, loss of appetite, and is similar to a milk fever cow. The toxins poison the whole system and can kill the cow. Hutchinson recommended initiating treatment with aspirin or antihistamines to bring the temperature down.

Frequent strippings of the infected quarter will help to rid the udder of toxins. He advised using broad spectrum antibiotics in the vein and then working with the veterinarian for an effective antibiotic to use in the udder.

The Pseudomonas organisms are more common in parlors since they grow in water systems. These bacteria also have a tolerance for iodine.

The Serratia organisms are found in contaminated bottles. They are not treatable. Some Serratia organisms have been found in some contaminated teat dips, Hutchinson stated.

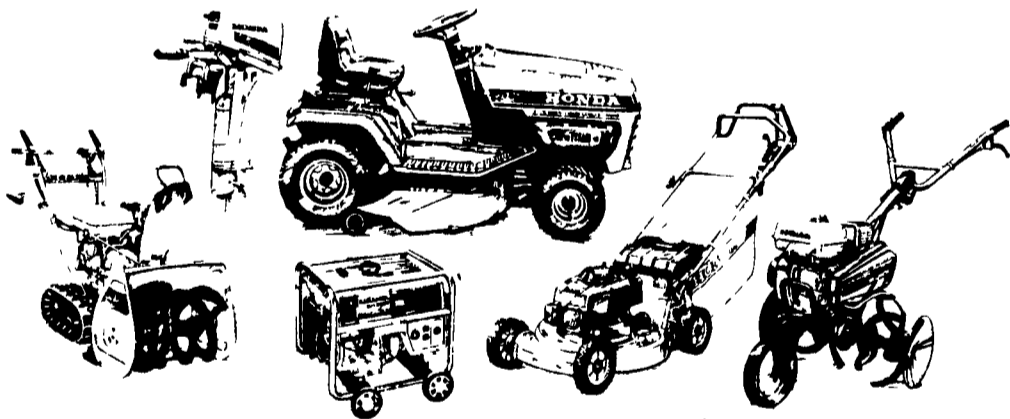
The Prototheca organisms also do not respond to antibiotics and have been found in Furacin and water bottles. It is a type of algae and needs a moist growing medium.

The Mycoplasma organisms are contagious types of bacteria that are spread from cow to cow. It does not respond to treatment and usually affects two to four quarters with a hardening of the udder.

"The only way to find out what is in your herd is to culture," Hutchinson encouraged farmers.

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