

DHIA Records Expose

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TABLE 1

SCC Linear Score	Lbs of Milk/Day
0	60.8
1	57.5
2	54.6
3	51.2
4	48.2
5	47.2
6	47.5
7	47.3
8	45.4
9	40.1

TABLE 2

Net Cash Farm Income/cow	AVE SCC for herd
\$517	<200,000
\$470	200,000 to 299,999
\$400	300,000 to 399,999
\$369	400,000 to 499,999
\$245	>500,000

C.A. Bratton, C.B. Williams 1985

PA DHIA raw data.

How much money is the farmer losing and is it worth it to initiate stricter controls? Loss can be determined with a simple calculation. Examine the following worksheet. Beginning with code three a cow loses 1.5 pounds of milk per day. As the code number increases so does the amount of milk loss per cow per day increase. According to the DHIA figures for this sample farm, this farmer is losing \$151.20 per month and more than \$1700 per year.

These are calculated with the somatic cell count figures on the DHIA report. (Use the numbers from your DHIA Herd Summary

report listed under somatic cell count to calculate how much money your farm is losing each month due to high somatic cell counts.)

The incentive to clean-up the mastitis problem is in dollars and cents. There is income to be gained in the form of more milk production and the premium paid for the low count milk.

"If your herd is in the low range is there any need to continue to get the somatic cell count on your report? For the fee of 84 cents per cow per cow this is cheap insurance," said Shirk. "A change in numbers is a flag waving at you. It

is the best way to prevent problems. And preventing the disease, believe me, is a lot easier than fighting it," explained Shirk.

Although certain cows appear to inherit mastitis problems, that is not the case. However, cows who are easy and fast milkers with short teats are cows which are prone to mastitis. Fast milkers, leakers are high in cell count, because there is not as much resistance at the teat end. Cows are bred to be easy

milkers so in that way they inherit characteristics that cause them to be prone to mastitis from generation to generation.

How To Stop Mastitis

"There is only one way infection can get into the udder. That is by bacteria getting close to the teat end. This means heifers and cows must be kept in an environment where they are not exposed to bacteria," said Shirk.

"If you are having problems with mastitis you must review your practices and make some changes. It's costing you money," warned Shirk.

Farmers should be asking some questions:

—Have the inflators been changed recently?

—Are the belts loose?

—Is the vacuum pump in good working order?

—Are any lines plugged?

—Does the machine need servicing?

—Are the milking practices unsanitary?

—Are cows fenced away from sloppy, muddy areas?

Farmers must clean-up infected cows to eliminate the seed of the bacteria-laden environment. Curing the old cow prevents new cases from being contracted.

"We can't treat infected cows which are lactating with as strong medicine as we can dry cows, because the medicine will show up in the milk. Sometimes it's best to control it in the infected cow and then dry her off and tackle the mastitis with strong treatment," said Shirk.

Shirk strongly suggests farmers track cows individually, each month to see what the trend in the herd is. First calf heifers should be in the 0-1 code, may be a 2, but according to Shirk a rating of code 3 is a sign of trouble. If heifers are constantly being infected, it could be that the person doing the milking is not cleaning and disinfecting the teats properly, and is spreading the disease by using the same wash cloth for each cow instead of dipping teats or using individual cloths.

"Heifers should be infection free. If they are not you've got a problem and you should get it corrected immediately," warns Shirk.

If heifers and cows are constantly being reinfected the animal should be cultured, bacteria should be identified and the veterinarian should be consulted.

"Older cows generally have a higher somatic cell count because they have been around longer to be exposed to more bacteria, but there

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Code	Number of cows for each code	Milk lost per day	Days in test period	Milk lost per code
3	4	1.5 x	30	= 180
4	2	3.0 x	30	= 180
5	5	4.5 x	30	= 675
6		6.0 x	30	=
7	1	7.5 x	30	= 225
8		9.0 x	30	=
9		10.5 x	30	=
Total lost milk				1260

(Total lost milk) 1260 = 126 hundred weight lost 100

Hundred weight lost 126 x value of milk/cwt. 12.00 = 151.20 dollar mastitis milk loss for the month.

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Thanks. Bring your friends.



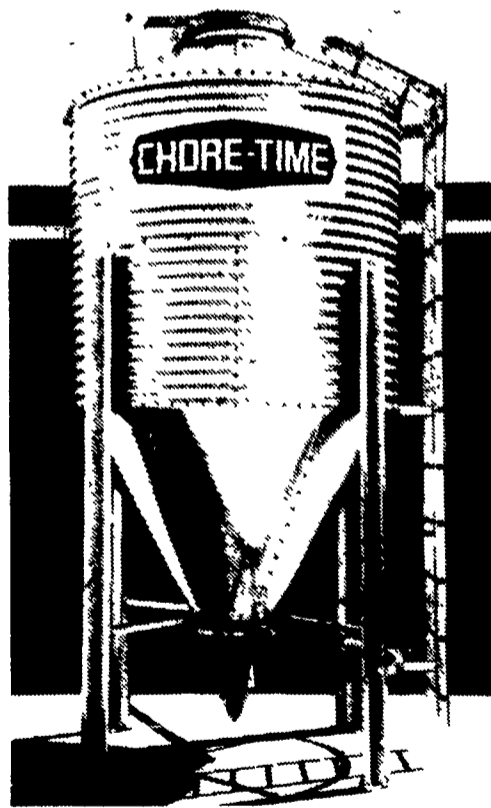
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