

Bradford Farmers Do The Impossible In SCC Control

BY PAT PURCELL
TOWANDA (BRADFORD CO.) — Getting every penny out of the milk check has taken on new meaning in light of the milk support price cut in January and the impending cuts when the elections are over.

Keeping a low somatic cell count earns more dollars per hundredweight in the form of premiums from milk processors. Several Bradford County milk producers are doing what some experts believe to be nearly impossible. These dairy farmers are keeping their somatic cell count below 100,000.

"I haven't washed a cow since 1971," said Dale Petty of Canton. Petty has kept an average SCC of 56,000 for 1988. His 1987 average was 97,000 on 41 Holsteins.

"I don't wash up my cows before milking. I was short of labor in 1971 and did all the milking myself," explained Petty. "I know that is totally against what they tell us. But if the cows are dirty I make sure to get the soil off of them."

"If I have problems with mastitis I want to know exactly what the problem is. I want to know if it's from an injury or a mechanical problem. I just won't have peace of mind until I get right to the heart of the problem," said Petty.

Petty takes extra precaution with treatments to discard milk according to treatment specifications and feels that it is a must for all dairymen to be conscientious and meticulous when it comes to the quality of their milk.

"Years ago I was having problems keeping my cell count down. Someone suggested I teat dip, but I didn't want to, but now I'm glad I went to it," said Petty. "Now teat dipping will not solve your mastitis problems, but I believe it will help to prevent it."

Petty's raw bacteria count averages below 8,000. Petty said as long as his SCC level stays low and the raw bacteria count stays below 10,000 he will not make any changes.

Greg and Clyde Seeley
Greg and his father Clyde Seeley of Canton registered a SCC

Beef Producers Workshop Set

ELKTON, MD — The University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service Cecil County Office is sponsoring a Beef Producers' Workshop. This workshop will be held on April 11, 1988 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cecil County Extension Office, Room 7, County Court House, Elkton, MD 21921. The workshop is free to all participants.

Highlighting the workshop will be two Extension Specialists, Dr. Scott Barao and Dr. Douglas Carmel. Dr. Barao, Livestock Specialist will be discussing the proper balancing of beef rations for small and large producers. His talk will also include information on pasture grazing systems and forage crops.

Dr. Carmel, Extension veterinarian, will be discussing cattle herd health. His topic will cover parasites, worming procedures, medicines and general cow-calf health.

In addition to these two speakers and their topics, information on cattle management, reproduction and trends will be discussed.

If you plan to attend this Beef Workshop, please contact the Extension Office at 398-0200, Ext. 181 or 301-658-4041.

level of 79,000 for November and December of 1987 and 42,000 and 46,000 in February and March. Their raw bacteria count from the milk plant runs below 5,000 and is usually at 1,000 to 2,000.

In preparing the cows for milking the Seeleys pre-strip each cow 10-12 times per quarter. They use a damp udder cloth rinsed in a bucket of hot water and Clorox, a chlorine bleach, and they use the same towel on every cow.

"The cloth is not running with water. We rinse it and wring it out and use it until we are done," said Greg.

They teat dip every cow with straight Clorox. According to Greg the Clorox is more economical than other teat dips and not as harsh on the teats. The Seeleys dry treat all their cows.

"As soon as the cow is prepared

I put the milker on her immediately. I do the preping and put on the milkers and Dad takes the milkers off. There's always a milker hanging ready for me to put on. Dad is right there to take the milker off as soon as she's done milking," explained Greg.

Seeley View Farm has 200 registered Holsteins on the farm. The rolling herd average is 15,700 lbs. in milk production and 600 lbs. of fat.

Matwil Farm

At the Matwil Farm in Troy, Bill and Ginny Davis keep their SCC between 80,000 to 100,000. Their lowest count was 57,000. Every cow at Matwil Farm is dry treated and when the cows freshen they treat the infected quarter immediately. On their problem cows they use a heavy dose of penicillin when they dry them.

According to Ginny, they use individual paper towels and teat dipping. The teat dip is a chlorohexadine solution with a glycerine base to keep the teats from cracking. They do use an iodine solution in the wash bucket with hot water. They wash off the teats and dry them immediately.

"I guess we surprise a lot of people because our bacteria count is never anymore than 10,000. We milk three times a day and we only wash and sanitize the system once a day. If we have fresh cows I usually milk them in a bucket, but if we have quite a few I'll put the milker on her, but I immediately get the milk out of the lines and wash out the lines so bacteria doesn't build up," explained Ginny.

An important factor in keeping down the bacteria level is the short

time it takes for the tank to cool down the milk. Within 15 minutes after milking, Ginny says the milk has cooled down and the tank shuts off. Often their tank has cooled the milk to below 42 degrees by the time the milking is done.

The Davis' milk a herd of 67 Red and White Holsteins they started building 14 years ago.

Jerry and Yvonne Scott

Jerry and Yvonne Scott of Troy keep the SCC near the 70,000 level by teat dipping after milking with a chlorohexadine solution and using individual udder towels rinsed in an iodine solution in the water.

"I take the equipment apart once a week and clean it and replace all the rubber parts every three months," said Jerry Scott.

They milk 30 Holsteins and keep their raw bacteria count close to a 7,000 average.



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