

CLINICAL MASTITIS

Clinical mastitis is what one classically thinks of when the word “**mastitis**” pops up. Broadly put, anytime milk is visibly abnormal and/or the udder is affected, we have clinical mastitis.

Abnormal milk:

Flakes, clots, watery appearance

Abnormal udder:

Heat, swelling, sensitive to touch

Clinical mastitis can be further separated into mild, moderate, and severe categories.

Mild: only the milk is visibly affected

Moderate: both the milk and the udder are affected

Severe: the cow is visibly ill, involving udder and milk signs

If you didn't see it, it never happened. Detection is critical. Some ways to detect include stripping milk into a strip cup or onto parlor floor to check for abnormal milk. Also, looking at and palpating the udder for inflammation.

A severe mastitis case is an emergency and needs to be treated ASAP. This includes IMM treatment, IV fluids, and anti-inflammatories.

A mild and moderate case can wait 24 hours prior to beginning treatment. This allows for the culturing of the pathogen which is causing the infection.

-Collect a clean milk sample.

-Use results to treat with best choice of antibiotics, or even no antibiotics at all.

SUBCLINICAL MASTITIS

A cow with subclinical mastitis appears to be normal. That is, still eating, normal appearing milk, udder not swollen and hard. A cow with subclinical mastitis, though, does still have inflammation in her udder. Detection and monitoring of these cows is critical in controlling your SCC. Some tests available include:

- DHIA program
- CMT paddle
- Various electronic SCC devices

WHY CULTURE?

Culture is critical because:

- It helps determine whether the bacteria causing issues is contagious vs. environmental.
- It allows one to determine whether the case is likely to respond to treatment or not.
- It helps monitor the current causes of mastitis on the farm (i.e. is *Staph aureus* causing a problem, has *Klebsiella* reared its ugly head, etc.).

All of these and more, guide the veterinarian and producer to various treatment and management decisions as well as directing one to focus on potential problem causing areas on the farm (i.e. parlor performance, bedding, manure management, etc.).



NEWSLETTER

DRUG UPDATE

Polymast[®] (hetacillin potassium) is a newly released IMM treatment

- Provides control against *Strep agalactiae*, *Strep dysgalactiae*, *Staph aureus*, *E coli*
- One syringe per quarter every 24 hours for up to 3 treatments
- Milk withhold- 72 hours from last treatment

A variety of other intramammary treatment tubes are available including:

- Spectramast LC[®]
- Pirsue[®]
- Amoxi-mast[®]
- Dari-clox[®]
- ToDay[®]

WISCONSIN DAIRY FACTS

- 90% of Wisconsin's milk is made into cheese
- More than 3 billion pounds of cheese are made in Wisconsin annually
- Cheese helps prevent tooth decay
- Colby cheese was invented in Colby, Wisconsin, in 1885
- 10 pounds of milk make one pound of cheese
- Mozzarella cheese is the biggest-selling cheese in the USA

Facts from www.americasdairyland.com

Starting January 1, 2017, a VFD is required to pickup milk replacer and crumbles which contain medically important antibiotics!

VIDEO ON COLLECTING AN ASEPTIC MILK SAMPLE:

<http://milkquality.wisc.edu/how-to-collect-an-aseptic-milk-sample/>

