

Guide to Crisis Management of Somatic Cell Counts in Cattle

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and
Markets

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Steps to prevent

Prevention is the key to mastitis control. Treating your way out of a mastitis problem is a temporary solution and measures need to be taken to make sure new cases are minimized or you will be back in trouble soon. **You need to identify what is causing the mastitis problem.** If

Milking System

Your milking system harvests the crop paying your livelihood two or more times every day. It is

essential that it is in good working order. The system needs to provide stable vacuum, adequate pulsation, and gentle milking action. Have your milking machine dealer test your system every 1,200 hours of operation, or annually, whichever is shorter.

Claws should have adequate capacity for efficient throughput of the milk or designed to not need capacity (quarter milkers, etc.). If clawless milking is used, the milk hose from the inflation to the

cases. If you are treating more than that you should contact your veterinarian and investigate why

Culture and treat or cull

...with ... to develop a treatment plan for the high SCC animals. ...



...to cull some of the high SCC animals. ...

Milking Procedure

- A. Completely Dip each Teat
- B. Observe the Foremilk

C.



Below is a further explanation of the milking procedure on the front of this sheet. Please post this

Animals should be maintained in a clean dry environment 24 hours a day

When predipping, it is very important to cover the entire teat. It is difficult to consistently cover the entire teat when spraying. Spraying in a tie stall barn is not recommended.

If teats are heavily soiled, wash with an individual paper towel dipped in an udder wash solution compatible with your predip.

A. **Completely Dip** each teat. Use a product that is labeled as a predip and has been shown to be effective at preventing mastitis*. **Be sure to cover the entire teat** and allow for at least 30 seconds of contact time.