Guide to Crisis Management of Somatic Cell Counts in Sheep

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets

Second Edition by

Dan Scruton, Senior Agricultural Development Coordinator

Dr. Kerry Rood, DVM, Vermont State Veterinarian

Laurel Junkins, Dairy System Coordinator

Byron Moyer, Dairy Section Chief

Dan Scruton, Milk Quality Enhancement Program
In Cooperation with
Woody Pankey, University of Vermont
Lynn Hinckley, University of Connecticut
John Porter, University of New Hampshire

Table of Contents

Introduction	
Regulations	
Steps to prevent	
Milking Procedures	
<u> </u>	

1

Milking System	
Prudent Treatment Plan	
Records	
SCC Crisis Management	5
Steps to rapidly reduce your bulk tank somatic cell count	
Identify problem animals	
Culture and treat or cull	
Summary	

Introduction

Somatic cell count (SCC) is commonly referred to as a Leucocyte count. The SCC is predominantly composed of white blood cells and is considered a good indicator of udder health in a herd or flock. A cow with an SCC over 300,000 cells per ml. will generally have a bacterial

Steps to prevent

1,000

	Otopo to provent
	Prevention is the key to mastitis control. Treating your way out of a mastitis problem is a
in the second se	v
•	
<u> </u>	
3	•
,	
-	
-	will be back in trouble soon. You need to identify what is causing the mastitis problem. If
	possible think back to when the high SCC or clinical mastitis started and identify changes that
	occurred at about that time. Below are the steps that need to be followed to minimize new cases
: 127	the state and do also a management of all the manufations of the state of the manufation

	Milking System
	Your milling exeten harvostaths aren neving vour livelihood two or more times exercided. It is
<u> </u>	
- -	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
<u> </u>	
· - -	
	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.
<u></u>	
<u> </u>	
	r -

Records Good records are important in the long term strategy to maintaining low SCCs. Maintain

Cull those animals that repeatedly have mastitis problems. At times high SCC problems are from a

culled, as new infections occur the percentage of high SCC animals increases and so does the bulk tank SCC.

Summary

Culture and treat or cull

In summary, the key to long term low Somatic Cell Counts is prevention and that can be summarized to Five Points:

Milking Procedure

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

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