

Guide to Crisis Management of Somatic Cell Counts in Sheep

Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and
Markets

Second Edition by

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Steps to prevent

Prevention is the key to mastitis control. Treating your way out of a mastitis problem is a

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

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.

Records

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

Culture and treat or cull

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

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

C. Dip the Teat in the Milk

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