

Selective Dry Cow Therapy:

Points of Discussion for Vet of Record and Herd Management for Success

Written documentation indicating Veterinarian of Record (VoR), with a Valid Client Patient Relationship (VCPR), involvement in the decision to adopt a selective dry cow therapy

VoR has knowledge of and has observed dry-off day procedures

Ability to implement new management tactics

- Written/computerized antibiotic use protocols
- Treatment documentation in herd records
- Data required to make the selective use determination is captured in herd health record system

Bulk Tank SCC regularly less than 250,000

- Monthly average of bulk tank pickup SCC less than 250,000

No evidence of *Streptococcus agalactiae* (Strep ag) in the herd

- Negative monthly bulk tank cultures
- Negative individual cow milk cultures

Control of *Staph aureus* infections, for example incidence of *Staph aureus* is not increasing and is at a frequency accepted by herd management.

Routine detection of visually abnormal milk and recording of detection as a clinical mastitis event in the herd record system

Monitoring of subclinical and clinical mastitis and/or bulk tank pathogen surveillance

Regular DHIA testing

Use of systematic dry-off lists

Excellent hygiene during the dry-off procedure

Written SOP and employee training program in place

Discuss with herd health team the appropriate use of teat sealants

References:

Vasquez AK, Nydam DV, Foditsch C, Wieland M, Lynch R, Eicker S, Virkler PD. Use of a culture-independent on-farm algorithm to guide the use of selective dry cow antibiotic therapy. *J Dairy Sci.* 2018

Rowe S, Godden S, Nydam DV, Gorden P, Lago A, Vasquez A, Royster E, Timmerman J, Thomas M. Randomized controlled trial investigating the effect of two selective dry cow therapy protocols on udder health and performance in the subsequent lactation. *J Dairy Sci.* 2020

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