

THE ABC OF MASTITIS

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Two types of mastitis:

Clinical mastitis is when there are obvious changes to the milk or udder. Can be due to environmental [live in the environment] or contagious bacteria [live in the udder].

Subclinical mastitis is when there are no visible changes to the milk, but the cow has a high cell count. Caused by contagious mastitis bacteria.

	Contagious	Environmental
Source of infection	Udder	Environment
Effect on herd SCC	Raised	Little effect [Strep uberis can have high cell counts]
Type of mastitis	Mainly subclinical	Mainly clinical
Time of year	All year round	Housed period Around calving
Spread	At milking	Bugs onto the teats between milking. Propelled into the udder during milking. Also immediately after milking [open teats] and during the dry period
Bacteria	Staph aureus, CNS Strep agalactiae Strep dysgalactiae C. bovis	Coliforms and E. coli Strep uberis
Control	Teat dipping all year round Dry cow therapy Culling Hygiene Milking machine [liners]	Clean environment Predipping Milking machine Good hygiene Dry cow yards and sealants

An organised approach to the mastitis or high SCC herd is successful

Culling [£1,000] & treating [£100+] your problems only provides short-term gain.

HOW TO DEAL WITH THE HIGH CELL COUNT HERD

1. Identify the cause of the problem ~ **Essential step**

Need STERILE samples from high cell count [CMT] cows, bulk tank milk and pre-treatment milk samples from clinical cases

2. Review all mastitis control measures – work with you're the practice. Items will include;
 - Milking routine
 - Treatment
 - Mastitis detection
 - Dry cow therapy ~ options for high cell count cows
 - Milking machine
 - Environment
 - Culling

Now you have controlled the spread of infection from cow to cow

3. Action for high cell count cows based on an individual cow basis.
4. Monitor herd cell count and keep good records.
5. Maintain and improve mastitis control measures as necessary. Work with us to ensure that the herd cell count is reduced.