

Peter Edmondson MVB CertCHP DipECBHM FRCVS

MASTITIS REFERRAL WORK

Peter Edmondson carries out mastitis referral visits to investigate problems with high somatic cell counts, Bactoscan and/or high levels of clinical mastitis. These visits may be carried out at the request of the dairy farmer, his veterinarian, a dairy or pharmaceutical company. Peter carries out referrals all over the UK (Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales), Ireland, Poland and Saudi Arabia.

Before the visit

Before the visit individual cow cell count data is requested (this can be remotely accessed and put into our Interherd programme). Also required are clinical mastitis records, copies of all the bacteriology results and a summary of cell count and Bactoscan results from milk buyer, and milking machine test reports.

Further bacteriology may be requested prior to the visit, and usually a bulk tank sample is sent off for analysis to give background information into mastitis, hygiene and problem areas. By the time Peter visits the farm, he will have a good idea of some of the problem areas and this help focussing attention.

On the day of the referral

On the referral visit day all areas relating to mastitis are investigated from the environment, milking routine, treatment, dry cow therapy and use of teat sealers, parlour function, records etc. A dynamic machine test and assessment of teats will be carried out along with an assessment of all areas relating to the machine. This work takes about four hours. The farmer's veterinary surgeon is encouraged to attend.

After the referral

At the end of the visit there will be a summary of the immediate actions that need to be carried out. A full report will be sent to you along with a copy for your staff and a copy sent to your veterinarian. Peter can then monitor progress from the practice, but he encourages the attending veterinarian to take over the day to day monitoring of the problem. Peter will be available to offer follow up advice by phone or to revisit the farm if necessary.