

Navan Veterinary Services - July 2012 Newsletter

New BTSCC threshold of 400K as of August 1, 2012

Brianne recently attended a meeting concerning the new SCC regulatory threshold of 400,000 which is set for August 1, 2012. The new penalty threshold may affect up to 26% of herds who would have been in the penalty range at least one month out of the previous year; this is compared to 8% with the previous threshold.

Now is the time to act. Dr. Dave Kelton, a member of the Ontario Dairy Industry Working Group, suggests a target bulk tank somatic cell count (BTSCC) of 200 which will leave a comfortable margin to deal with typical fluctuations throughout the year. This can be achieved; we've seen it happen on many of our client's farms. In the last month or so, you should have received a graph of your weighted average BTSCC over the last year. This graph is very useful as it demonstrates how the new regulations could affect you, based on your historical BTSCC data. Please show this to us when we are at your farm so that we can help you improve your milk quality.

DHI results should be consulted as it can provide valuable information about the nature of SCC issues. A cow with elevated SCC, or subclinical mastitis, will produce less milk than a similar cow with a low SCC. 85% of cows with a SCC over 200K are infected with a mastitis causing pathogen. Taking cultures from these cows will provide you with the information to deal with these cases.

In Clinic Milk Culture Lab

In order to help us get you the best results from cultures you submit keep the following in mind:

- Take samples from each cow prior to starting treatment. These can be frozen and used to develop an initial treatment protocol or subsequent protocol if initial therapy fails. Without a sample it is impossible to understand failure to therapy.
- Take good samples! Make sure your sampling technique is sterile. You should only use bottles specifically for culturing (ie not DHI sample bottles). Ask us to show you how to take a good sample.
- Store the culture properly. If you can get the sample to us the day you take it, keep it cool (in the fridge or on ice) until you get it to us. If you can't get it to us right away, store it in the freezer until you can.
- Provide us with as much information about the cow as you can to help us in treatment recommendations. We can provide you with labels to fill out and put on your bottles.
- Weekend cultures. Keep in mind that it takes 24-48 hours to get a culture result at the clinic. Bring your samples in before Friday. Cultures are not interpreted over the weekend so there will be a delay getting your results if you wait until Friday to bring them to us.

Twilight Meeting – July 25, 2012

This year's meeting is being held at Bertom Farms (2215 Giroux Rd, Sarsfield). The chicken dinner is catered by AJ's catering. Purchase your tickets from Tim Groniger (613-822-2358) or Fred VanMunsteren (613-835-1604) by July 20th.