

## DRY TREATING COWS

### 1. PURPOSE

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To terminate lactation and start the dry period.

### 2. RESPONSIBILITY

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All trained and qualified personnel.

### 3. MATERIAL

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- 3.1 Teat dip
- 3.2 A box of rubber gloves
- 3.3 Stripping cup
- 3.4 California Mastitis Test® (CMT) : Diluted solution and paddle
- 3.5 Alcohol wipes
- 3.6 Antibiotic Intramammary Infusion for Dry Cows (e.g., Novodry Plus® or Cefa-Dri)
- 3.7 Uddergold Dry®
- 3.8 Clean, empty creamer cup
- 3.9 Non-Antibiotic Intramammary Teat sealant (e.g., Orbeseal® or Lock Out)
- 3.10 Top Vac (E. coli and S. aureus bacterin)
- 3.11 20g 1½" needle
- 3.12 2cc syringe
- 3.13 Halter
- 3.14 Livestock crayon
- 3.15 DRY card
- 3.16 Lactanet SCC (Somatic Cell Count) Report
- 3.17 Lactanet Udder Health Report

### 4. PROCEDURES

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- 4.1 The Technician or Herd Manager will determine when a cow is due to be dried off and if antibiotic infusion will be used.
  - 4.1.1 The Lactanet SCC report and Udder Health reports, as well as the environment in which the cow will be housed during her dry-off period will determine if a cow is a candidate for selective dry cow therapy.
- 4.2 Reduce milk production:
  - 4.2.1.1 Feed cows a shovel of Group 2 (G2) ration with minerals and first cut hay and place a "Shovel full of G2 + Minerals and Hay Only" feed instruction card above her.
  - 4.2.1.2 Milk production is <15L:
    - place a "Milk AM only" card on the name card.
    - Add the milking instructions sheet to the milk cart sheet.
    - Milk cow in the morning only.
  - 4.2.1.3 Milk production drops to <10-15 L/d (higher-producing breeds, e.g., Holsteins) or <10 L/d (lower-producing breeds, e.g., Jerseys) for 3 consecutive days.
    - Discontinue milking and Dry Off as per Section 4.3

### 4.3 DRYOFF PROCEDURE:

- 4.3.1 Dry off IMMEDIATELY after milking and before she has the chance to lie down.
- 4.3.2 Ensure the cow is emptied of any milk before starting.
- 4.3.3 Check the Observation Sheet on the milk cart to see if she had shown signs of clinical mastitis in recent milking.
- 4.3.4 For any suspected cases of infection, perform a California Mastitis Test ®.
  - Positive quarters:
  - Consult with the Technician for corrective action.
  - Treatment plan will depend on the severity of the infection. (2 tubes of antibiotic intramammary Infusion for dry cows).
- 4.3.5 All quarters that have been tested negative are treated with 1 tube of Intra mammary infusion.
- 4.3.6 Attach the cow's tail tie to an overhead bar so it does not interfere with your work.
- 4.3.7 Wearing clean gloves, strip out each quarter until the udder is empty.
- 4.3.8 Change your gloves.
- 4.3.9 Starting with the teat furthest away, thoroughly clean the teat end and surrounding area with an alcohol swab, moving to clean areas of the swab.
- 4.3.10 Carefully remove the cap from the antibiotic intramammary infusion nozzle, ensuring it doesn't come into contact with anything.
- 4.3.11 Without touching the teat end with your gloves, insert only the tip of the nozzle (¼ of the way) into the teat.
- 4.3.12 Once the tube has been emptied, leave it in the teat and gently squeeze the infusion up the teat canal with your free hand.

#### IMPORTANT

- ❖ Never push the nozzle all the way into the teat because you risk damaging the teat canal if the cow moves a lot.

- 4.3.13 Proceed with the other quarters, using a new alcohol swab before inserting the infusion to each teat, finishing with the teat closest to you.
- 4.3.14 Massage the udder especially at the base, close to the teat.
- 4.3.15 Change your gloves again.
- 4.3.16 Starting with the teat furthest away, thoroughly clean the teat end and surrounding area with an alcohol swab, moving to clean areas of the swab.
- 4.3.17 Carefully remove the cap from the teat sealant nozzle, making sure it doesn't come into contact with anything.
- 4.3.18 Without touching the teat end with your gloves, infuse 1 tube of sealant by inserting only the tip of nozzle (¼ of the way) into the teat.

#### IMPORTANT

- ❖ Never push the nozzle all the way into the teat because you risk damaging the teat canal if the cow moves a lot.
- ❖ Never push the sealant up into the canal. It is meant to plug the teat end only.

- 4.3.19 Wearing the same gloves, fill ¾ of the plastic cup with the Udder Gold sealant.

- 4.3.20 Dip the teats, covering as high up the teat as you can get. Just covering the end is not sufficient.
- 4.3.21 Using a livestock crayon, write "DRY" on both sides of the rump in large letters and a large "X" on both hind legs.
- 4.3.22 Place a "DRY" card label above the cow and for tie-stall cows, and for cows in tie-stalls, attach an orange leg band.
- 4.3.23 Detach the cow's tail.
- 4.3.24 Using a halter, restrain the cow's head very securely.
- 4.3.25 Administer 2cc Top Vac intramuscularly in the neck. ([Refer to SOP DC-701: Substance Administration](#)).
- 4.3.26 Complete out the "Tarisement" section of the log sheet and record all treatments. (vaccinations and CMT results, even if all 4 quarters were negative). Be sure to indicate if more than 1 tube of intramammary infusion was necessary for any of the quarters)
- 4.4 Record the TopVac administration in the Dry Cow Vaccination log in the blue binder in the dairy office and highlight any cows that were not dried off with antibiotics with a red star next to their name and number.
- 4.5 Return all materials to their designated places in the refrigerator, cupboard, or shelves.
- 4.6 Put needles in the SHARPS container and dispose of the empty infusion and sealant tubes in the BIO WASTE box.
- 4.7 If used, Wash the stripping cup and CMT paddle in hot soapy water, dry, and store.

**Document Status and Revision History**

DATE	STATUS
6-Dec-2017	Version 01:MAC FACC approved
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