

SEPTEMBER 2010



NEWS FROM MEDA

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Mastitis Bulk Tank Cultures

By Paul Peetz-Technical Service Manager-MEDA

I get questions from route personnel, service people, dairymen and sometimes the occasional fast food worker it seems, about where a certain type of mastitis comes from. I have always referred to articles written by people much smarter than me and have referred many of the previously mentioned people to the same. I wanted to take some space in this month's newsletter to start a series of articles on explaining the results of the bulk tank culture. I recommend any dairy serious about cell count take a bulk tank culture at least once a month. I believe the bulk tank culture may be the best bang for the buck on dairies either trying to lower their cell count or maintain a low number. I have included, this month, the Culture Report Interpretation from the University of Minnesota's Quality Counts website. If you have never been to the website I recommend going there and just looking at the information available. The site has something for everyone trying to either lower their cell count or those helping someone who is. As providers to our customers it is our job to bring value to these customers, the information available at this site can do just that. The next time someone asks about what dip they should use or challenges you as to a competitor's lower priced product ask to see the bulk tank culture. If they don't have one, offer to do the leg work to help them get one. Once they produce the document use the guide to determine what might be the issues the dairy is confronting. High Strep Ag. Or Staph Aureus? Let's take a look to determine if cows are identified and separated. How about high Staph Species and all others low? Let's take a look at how pre dip is applied and used. Cows clean, dirty, is it possible to get clean dry teats? With all this said what about Bac-Drop? More and more dairymen and women are talking about the 400,000 limit, some are over, some are close, and some have never seen it. All of those operations though are talking about it, what an opportunity to talk about lowering the bacteria present in the liners, gloves and all other surfaces in the parlor.

Fall is here the weather is changing; the business of harvesting is likely in full swing. Dairymen are busy, take the time to brush up on the knowledge it takes to support there ever growing needs. When the rush subsides and their attention can be fully directed toward milk quality have a plan in place to provide the support they deserve. I will be submitting more detailed information next month on how to interpret the information included in the bulk tank culture. Ask me about on farm culturing to confirm sanitation in the parlor. As milking times get longer and longer and washes get farther and farther apart sanitation in the parlor becomes more and more critical, ask me how we can demonstrate that to your dairymen. See Culture Report Interpretation on next page.

Again thanks for the support and Go Packers,

Paul Peetz

Mastitis Bulk Tank Culture Report Intepretation

Type of Bacteria	Usual Infection Source	Major Means of Spread	Mastitis Control
Strep Agalactiae	Infected udders of other cows in herd	Cow to Cow by contaminated udder wash rag, teat cups, etc.	Use separate towels to wash/dry: Teat dipping; dry cow treatment; eradication in special cases.
Staph Aureus	Infected udders of other cows, contaminated bedding form milk of infected cows	Cow to Cow by contaminated udder wash rag, milker hands, contaminated milking equipment, and improperly functioning equipment	Use separate towels to wash/dry: Teat dipping; dry cow treatment. Milk infected cows last, cull chronically infected cows.
Mycoplasma	Infected udders of other cows, often form infected purchased cows/heifers	Cow to Cow by hands of milkers, equipment, and common towels. Aerosol transmission from animals with respiratory signs may also occur. Or the bacteria can move from a respiratory tract infection to the udder or joints	Careful purchasing of replacement cattle, using bulk tank and cow culturing to monitor herd stats and clinical cows. Use separate towels to wash/dry; teat dipping; dry cow treatment; milk infected cows last, cull any positive clinical case
Non-ag Streps	Environment of cows	Environment of the cow by: wet, dirty lots, contaminated bedding, milking wet cows, poor cow prep, milking machine air slips.	Improve stall and lot sanitation; milk clean dry cows, avoid air leaks and liner slips, change bedding frequently. Keep cows standing after milking.
Coliforms	Environment of cows	Environment of the cow by: wet, dirty lots, contaminated bedding, milking wet cows, poor cow prep, milking machine air slips. Hot humid weather.	improve stall and lot sanitation; milk clean dry cows, avoid air leaks and liner slips, change bedding frequently. Keep cows standing after milking.
Staph Species	Environment of cows	Poor teat dip coverage, poor cow prep, old bedding	Consistent teat dipping, adequate cow prep, and more frequent bedding changes

Adapted from the University of Minnesota Extension Service Scc Toolbox

<http://www.ansci.umn.edu/dairy/QUALITY%20COUNTS/Quality%20Counts.html>

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE OFFICE

NEW TEAT DIP CUPS: MEDA now has Teat Dip Cups in NEW Yellow. Orders need to be sent to the office.

Product Code: 01-90050-DIPPE
01-90051-DIPPE (25 or more)

Price is the same as Green and Blue.

We will not be offering Blue Teat Dip Cups when our current supply is gone. If you like the Blue Teat Dip Cups you may want to order them now while supply lasts.

COUPONS: We still have a lot of unused coupons in circulation. Make sure you are talking about our products offered through our coupon promotion while visiting your dairies. Let them know you can give them 5gls of a product free just to try it. It is a win-win!!!!

LABELS: Orders for Ecolab labels now go through the MEDA office. Marcia prints them to order and mails them.

WARRANTY CLAIMS: Warranty claims need to go through the MEDA office. Complete the form that can be found in your Chem-Star Laundry Program Binder, or call Marcia for a copy, and fax it to the office. Marcia will make the contact and send return instructions, if needed, back to you within 3 days.

UDDER COMFORT ORDERS: Udder comfort orders can be placed directly through Udder Comfort or you can call the MEDA office and Marcia will place the order for you.

SAVE THE DATE!

Our 2010 Dealer Meeting will be on October 14-16th.