

NEWSLETTER

May 2009 No 35.



The Dairy Co Mastitis Control Plan



Dairy Co are the reborn MDC and together with Nottingham University they have been working on a whole farm approach to improving the mastitis situation in the UK. Initially a national survey was carried out across England and Wales on 125 dairy herds with regard to clinical disease incidence and the pathogens involved in both clinical and sub-clinical disease.

Clinical mastitis - Bacteriology results obtained from 480 clinical mastitis samples submitted for culture revealed *Streptococcus uberis* and *Escherichia coli* to be the most commonly isolated organisms, accounting for 23.5% and 19.8% of cases respectively.

Sub-clinical mastitis - Collated national statistics suggest that, at around 200,000 cells/ml, bulk milk somatic cell count (BMSCC) is currently relatively well-controlled. As a broad rule of thumb, for every 100,000 cells/ml increase in BMSCC approximately 8 to 12% of the herd is likely to be infected - i.e. a dairy herd with a BMSCC of 200,000 cells/ml would be expected to have approximately 20% of the cows infected. From 464 sub-clinical mastitis samples (samples from high somatic cell count cows) collected during the 2004-05 survey, 13.8% cultured *S. uberis* and 5.2% cultured *Staphylococcus aureus* although almost 40% returned a diagnosis of no growth, indicating how difficult isolation of major mastitis pathogens can be from persistently infected cases.

Summary - The results of the survey led to the conclusion that the incidence of clinical mastitis in dairy herds in England and Wales was somewhere between 47 and 65 cases per 100 cows/year; higher than previously thought. Environmental pathogens (pathogens predominating in the environment) tended to predominate but contagious pathogens (pathogens spreading from cow to cow) remained an important issue in some herds; a clear shift away from the UK situation 50 years ago, as illustrated in the figure in the next column.

The way forward—We are in the first wave of practices in the UK to offer this new approach to dealing with mastitis. The Dairy Co plan allows us to look at the mastitis pathogens on farm alongside the somatic cell counts, environment and management

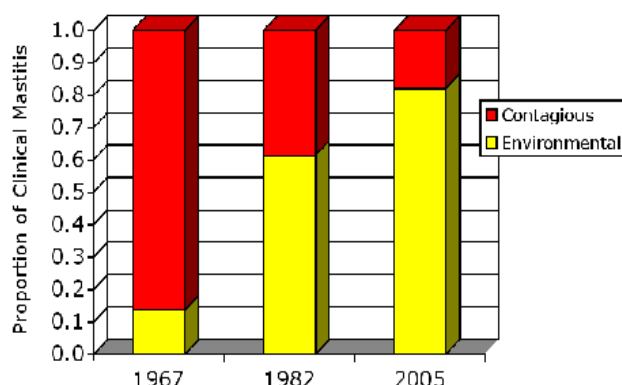


Figure : An illustration of the change in the relative contribution of contagious and environmental pathogens to clinical mastitis in the UK.

practices to formulate a plan of action as to what are likely to be the most effective ways to reduce the cell count and the number of clinical cases. This is all based upon the probability of success from experiences on 750 other farms but taking your individual situations into account. We are presently trialling this approach on one farm and hope to roll it out across the practice in the near future. In addition we now have a tool available which helps us determine the likely success of treatment in a particular cow dependent upon her history, cell counts, parity etc and shows us the cost of treating her both in milk yield, tube usage etc versus the cost of replacing her.

More information can be found at www.mastitiscontrolplan.co.uk where you can also see practices and farms already involved on the plan. For further information please give Molly a call at the practice.

The Royal Norfolk Show—we are again happy to announce that we are sponsoring both the Aberdeen Angus and the Goat classes at this year's show.

The show is on the 1st and 2nd July and because of Molly's inability to run in high heels and the risk of Will losing his smart hat we will as usual be running an emergency service only on these 2 days.

As usual we will be running a caption competition for tickets—so see what you can do with this.... Best answers win a pair of tickets



For Sale:

Young Beef Shorthorn Bulls—Red Rhone and White.

High Health Status, Polled, Ready for use.

NJ & AM Barrett. Call Nick on: 07789 764117.

Land Rover—110 HiCap pick-up. 51 Plate. TD5. Only 47,000. MOT until October.

Call Nigel Carey on: 07850 823850.

Tubar Cattle crush—excellent working order complete with weigh scales. **EB Feed Hopper**—13 tonne, fibreglass with low level discharge. Perfect condition. EB feeder system also available.

Contact James Ashworth on: 07715 464832.

People/Equipment:

Mobile Sheep Handling—Pratley mobile sheep handling system. For hire with operator.

Call Mr. Fletcher on: 07977040358.

Molecatcher—for hire. Tracey Palmer: 01485 600717.

Wanted:

2 Anglo Nubian Female Goats.

Ideally 9-12 months old.

Contact Janet Githiri on: 01945 440412.

Concert

Linda and John Phelps, of Grove Farm Langham, are putting on a concert in Langham Church on Sunday 7th June at 7:30pm. Linda is a seasoned performer, and John isn't bad on the drums, so a good night is expected:

Linda Bryan-Phelps with The Dave Lane Quartet present:
'Mood Swings for Summer'
the reunion concert.

For tickets call 01328 830696/830595.

This month has brought some vary sad news for two local farming families.

Richard Elsegood of Pott Row passed away. He was an incredibly popular figure in the community and gave up a lot of time for others in many different guises. He will be missed by many.

Tom Moore of Walsingham, who farmed the family farm with his brother Bill, also tragically passed away. Tom was hugely active in all manner of local activities and organisations and will be sorely missed. He will be remembered as being someone who was able to bring a smile to anyone he came across.

Our thoughts are with both their families at this time.

Bluetongue vaccine.

Just a reminder that all of this years calves and goat kids will require 2 doses of bluetongue vaccine three weeks apart. The first dose can be given from 1 month of age. All lambs will require a single dose, again from 1 month of age.

It can be inconvenient to inject these animals and it is very easy to overlook the new additions, but please remember to dose them. Although very few cases of the disease have been seen in this country, the risk is always present and only vaccination can prevent the rapid and destructive spread seen in other European countries. Remember, the cost and inconvenience is tiny compared the possible problems that could be encountered, so order your doses now.

As most of you are aware we are strongly behind the campaign to encourage people to buy locally and reduce food miles, hence we recommend that everyone buy locally either via the Fakenham Farmers Market on the 4th Saturday of the month or directly from the producers listed below:

Duncan Jeary	Beef	07880 508104
Mrs Temple	Cheese	01328 820224
Pointen Bros.	Dairy Produce	01263 860338
John Garner	Game, lamb, turkeys	01328 700277
Houghton Hall	Lamb, Mutton, Beef, Pork and Eggs	07793 208655
Sandringham Beef and Lamb	West Newton Shop	01485 542219
Courtyard Farms	Organic Beef, Lamb and Pork	01485 525251 or courtyardfarm.organic@virgin.net
Perfick Pork	Pork, Lamb, Chicken & Beef	01328 829317
Mr Day	Pork, Lamb, Veg, Knitting wool	Hindolveston. 01263 860578
Simon Dann	Norfolk Farmhouse Ice-cream	On Farm/Local Shops.
Gavin Lane	Salt Marsh Beef	sales@saltmarshbeef.co.uk
Van Beuningen	Ash Farm Organics	01362 683228 www.ashfarmorganics.co.uk
Mrs. Willcox	Mohair Socks, Preserves, Eggs	Erpingham House Farm
Linda Cletheroe	Seasonal Fresh Vegetable	01263 587466 / 07780930903 Lindafreshveg.vpweb.co.uk
Moore's Livestock, Oak Farm	Beef, Pork, Free Range Eggs	Farmers Market 01553 630772/07900 491679

If your name is missing just call the office and we will add your details.

Local Produce