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HowsMyHerd

Providing low cost **solutions** to high cost **problems**

Date of Assessment: 18 Jan 08

Main Summary

PRESSURE POINTS WITHIN YOUR SYSTEM

The impact of each stress area is shown in a traffic light format,
Green = no level of stress **Amber** = animals under some level of stress **Red** = animals in heavy stress
The overall How's My Herd score is obtained from the five factors below which are factored to give a true value.

HOWS MY HERD SCORE	26%	36%	31%		Cows showed excellent rumen fill but issues with the environment were causing lameness, mastitis & poor fertility.
Key Indicators				**For more details...**	
Health	27%	35%	38%	See Page 2	Health was a major issue in particular lameness and mastitis due to the environment. All had negative effects on fertility.
Fertility	35%	46%	19%	See Page 7	Fertility needs to be improved, in particular conception rates.
Nutrition	39%	50%	12%	See Page 9	Nutrition was not seen as a major problem with good rumen fill. Dry cow nutrition may need some attention.
Cow Environment	12%	31%	58%	See Page 13	Cow Environment was the biggest cause of stress to the herd. Cubicles and ventilation are areas for attention.
Management	31%	31%	39%	See Page 17	Yield would be improved by carrying out minor alterations.

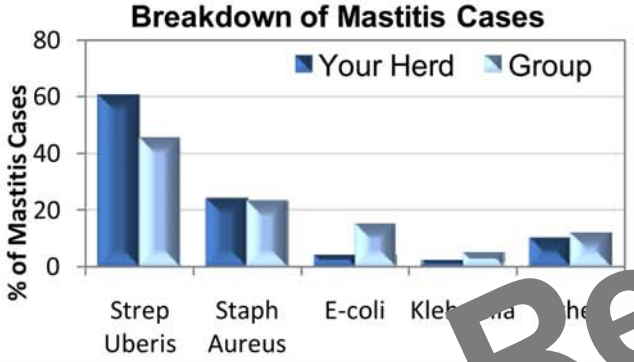
KEY POINTS FOR ATTENTION

Adjusting the cubicles to meet the requirements of the cows will increase lying times and reduce foot problems.	Attention to detail and consistent feeding of dry and transition cows will increase DMI, improving post calving health and production.
Improving ventilation in all the sheds will reduce the mastitis burden by increasing the drying effect on the bedded areas and reduce heat stress.	Increasing footbathing and foot health will pay dividends in all aspects of herd performance. At your production level it would be beneficial to trim all the cows twice a year at 60 days and 200 days post calving.
Introducing a heifer/fresh cow group will reduce stress, increasing production and aiding fertility with the end result of a lower culling rate.	The herd was performing well but cow stress can be reduced with improvements to the cow environment and an increased focus on attention to detail and regular routines.

MASTITIS

Mastitis Issues	Your Herd	Group
	(Cases per 100 cows)	
Total Mastitis Cases (Cases per 100 cows)	**119**	43
Breakdown of Cases		
Streptococcus Uberis	**60%**	45%
Staphylococcus Aureus	**24%**	23%
Escherichia coli	**4%**	15%
Klebsiella	**2%**	5%
Other	**10%**	12%

Breakdown of Mastitis Cases



Main Types of Mastitis

Streptococcus Uberis - found in mouth, vulva, teats and faeces of the cow. Caused by problems with the environment.

Staphylococcus Aureus - a contagious pathogen generally living in the udder and in the skin lesions. Spread at milking.

E-coli - generally the most severe. Can be caused by different factors of stress internally or externally e.g. diet or environment.

Klebsiella - causes a very severe mastitis, similar effects to E-coli. Generally caused by damp, warm bedding.

The biggest cause of mastitis is Streptococcus uberis, spread by the environment.

Environmental Issues

Environmental mastitis could become a problem due to teat end contamination with bacteria from faeces, wet bedding or water. The ventilation problems and lack of bedding are significantly increasing the amount of time required to control mastitis. The increased standing times due to the small cubicle dimensions and poor ventilation are increasing the stress levels

Improving ventilation wil reduce mastitis incidences. See page 15 for recomendations.

Some of the yarded area was not effectively cleaned causing dirty feet and udders. Clean yards and regular foot bathing will result in cleaner feet that will reduce contamination from feet contacting the cows udders. Udder singeing is advised as this will help reduce the debris sticking to the udder and save time in parlour preparation.

Parlour Issues

Parlour issues include pre spraying or wiping with medicated wipes, excess teat end damage, lack of strip yield, fidgeting in the parlour and positioning of units while the cows are being milked. Once parlour routine is improved the cows should come into the parlour without being forced unfairly.

A Parlour Health Check will recommend improvements to increase parlour output and reduce cow stress.

Actions

- Improve Ventilation within all the buildings. See page 15.
- Trim tails and singe udders either in 1 hit, twice a year or as cows calve.
- Routinely monitor teat end & teat skin condition to assess milking plant effectiveness.
- Change the milking routine to incorporate a 90 second delay before applying clusters.