

# Countdown Mastitis Focus fact sheet

## Clinical Mastitis

May 2009

Clinical mastitis cases are caused by bacteria which have entered the teat canal and established an infection in the udder.

Dairy  
Australia  
Your Levy  
at Work



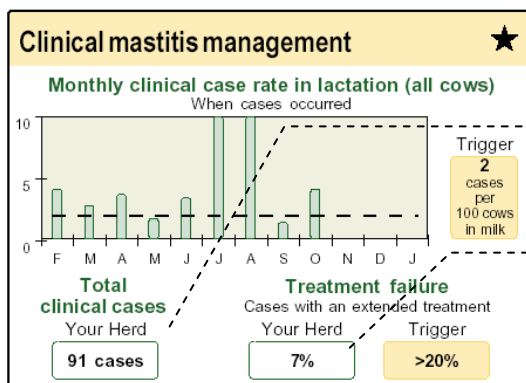
Dealing with mastitis isn't about magic bullets and quick fixes. It's about knowing how the culprit bacteria work and creating a management plan to combat them.

The **Clinical mastitis** box in your report shows when case rates were above the trigger level and how successful your treatment protocol has been.

Ways of boosting clinical case management are given on the next page. If you would like more detailed interpretation about what is happening in your herd contact a Countdown-trained adviser in your area or visit [www.countdown.org.au](http://www.countdown.org.au)

### Understanding your report

**TIP** The **Average Clinical Case Rate** at the top of your report in **Your Herd Annual Performance Summary** gives the overall rate for entire report period



A single star rating indicates that you need to take action

**TIP** Do the total number of clinical cases look right? Make sure you have entered all cases into your herd management software

Talk with your vet if your herd has a treatment failure above the trigger level

**TRAP** If a tick is missing it means that those records were not available. Include all records to get a comprehensive report

Clinical mastitis management		Calving dates: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Clinical case records: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Termination dates: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		LCT records: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Monthly clinical case rate in lactation</b>		
Number of clinical cases in lactation (from 14 days after calving):		51
When they occurred:		
Feb 5	Mar 4	Apr 6
May 3	Jun 5	Jul 10
Aug 9	Sep 2	Oct 7
Nov	Dec	Jan
Total clinical cases		91
<b>Treatment failure</b>		
Number of cases given an extended treatment course (4 or more doses of antibiotic in 10 days):		6

These are the number of cases that occurred during lactation (it doesn't count those that were around calving)

**TRAP** Make sure that everyone understands and follows the farm protocol for detecting clinical so that cows are not missed or treated unnecessarily

This is the number of cases that required more than the standard treatment course (ie 3 doses of antibiotic in a 10 day period)

### Your records

- Complete clinical case records are essential (intramammary and injectable antibiotics)
- Calving dates are needed to establish the 'lactating' group of cows
- Termination (dry-off, cull or death) dates are needed –otherwise cows are regarded as still lactating

## Areas to focus on when your star rating is low...



### **Detect clinical cases early**



Treatment is required when there is heat, swelling or pain in the udder, or there are changes in the milk (wateriness or clots) that persist for MORE than three squirts of milk.

The sooner a clinical case is found and treated, the greater the likelihood of both curing that case and preventing spread to other cows

#### **Quick check – Do you and your milkers:**

- Check daily for swollen quarters or quarters that don't milk out
- Check for clots on the filter
- Have a system that lets other staff know about suspect cows
- Check BMCC's daily for sudden increases that may indicate a missed clinical case

*Review Farm Guideline 5 Rapidly find, treat and record clinical cases & Fact Sheet E Records to keep on clinical cases*

### **Use milk cultures to identify the source of spread**



Good clinical mastitis management is not just about treating individual cows, but dealing with what is happening in the herd as a whole.

The appropriate antibiotic treatment and management plan for your herd will depend on whether you are dealing with cow-associated or environmental bacteria

#### **Quick check – Have you:**

- Sent milk samples for culture recently (in the last few months)
- Had cultures that were contaminated or mixed growth. Check your sampling procedure using Fact Sheet A
- Consulted your vet on treatment choices and management

*Review Fact Sheet A Milk cultures*

### **Have an appropriate treatment protocol**



Curing clinical mastitis relies on both the product choice and the way it is used. At least 4 out of every 5 cows should cure after the first course of antibiotics

#### **Quick check – Do you:**

- Milk infected cows last or use a separate cluster
- Fully strip the quarter before infusing antibiotic
- Use a full courses of antibiotics as directed by the label
- Ensure that you don't introduce bacteria during treatment (wear clean gloves, use teat wipes)
- Record each time a dose of antibiotic is given

*See Fact Sheet B The correct way to give intramammary treatments*