

Countdown Mastitis Focus fact sheet

Previous dry-off strategies

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A good drying-off strategy is much more than simply choosing a suitable antibiotic Dry Cow Treatment (DCT). Sufficient planning and good technique are needed to achieve a successful outcome.

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The drying-off strategy used in your herd should have:

1. cured cows that were subclinically infected during the lactation, and
2. protected **ALL** cows from infection over the dry period until the time of calving.

The **Previous dry-off strategies** box shows the extent that this was achieved in your herd.

Suggestions on how to improve your dry-off strategy are given over the 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

Understanding your report

TIP A high **clinical case rate at calving** in **Your herd annual performance summary** may be the first indication of a weakness in the dry cow strategy used in the herd.

Previous dry-off strategies		★
Failure to cure over the dry Existing infections not cured by antibiotic Dry Cow Treatment	Your Herd: 27%	Trigger: ≤20%
Missed treatments Infected cows that didn't receive antibiotic Dry Cow Treatment	10%	>5%
Infections over the dry Cows that became infected in the dry-off or at calving	13%	>10%
Dry period clinical case rate Indicates the success of the dry-off procedure	?	>1 case per 100 cows

A single star rating indicates that you need review your strategy and take action before your next dry-off

Review the protocol used to 'Stop, seal, heal' and product selection if failure to cure is high

If too many cows with a subclinical infection didn't get antibiotic DCT, review how cows are being selected

This is the proportion of clean cows that had infections (subclinical or clinical) after calving

Previous dry-off strategies		Calving dates: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Eligible cows (dried-off and re-calved during the report period)	338	Clinical case records: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Failure to cure over the dry		Herd test records: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Eligible cows that were infected and treated with antibiotic dry cow:	279	DCT records: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Of these, the number herd tested after calving (10-30 days):	52	Termination dates: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
And still had a high cell count or clinical case after calving:	14	
Missed treatments		
Eligible cows infected and not given antibiotic DCT:	22	
Infections over the dry		
Eligible cows uninfected in previous lactation:	144	
Of those, the number herd tested after calving (10-30 days):	47	
And developed a high CC or clinical case after calving:	6	
Dry period clinical case rate		
Number of cows that had a clinical case over the dry period:	0	

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

TRAP **Failure to cure over the dry & Infections over the dry** can only be assessed on cows that were herd tested in the first month after calving. If these numbers are low, then the results may not be a true representation of the herd

Your records

- Only cows that were dried-off and re-calved during the report period are included in these measures
- Dry-off dates, Dry Cow Treatment records and calving dates are needed.
- Herd test records are needed to identify subclinically infected cows. Check page 2 of your report to make sure herd test numbers look right

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



Effectively 'Stop, Seal, Heal'



After drying-off most new infections occur in quarters where the teat canal has not sealed rapidly.

Forward planning is needed to ensure milk secretion shuts-down and teat canals seal as quickly as possible, and sufficient time has been allowed for the udder tissue to repair.

Quick check – Did all cows:

- Produce between 5 and 12 litres of milk a day at the time of drying-off
- Have a normal milking routine (no days skipped) until dry-off
- Go to a dry, clean paddock for 3-4 days after drying-off with minimal manure and bare dirt (avoid transporting cows)
- Have their udders observed every day in the first week to check for swollen quarters
- Have at least 6 weeks dry

Review Farm Guideline 16 Dry-off abruptly taking steps to reduce yield & Farm Guideline 18 Check udders each day for a week

Treat the right cows with the right products



Use products that give the best chance of cure and protect your cows for a period that best suits your herd

Action:

- Talk to your vet about the best option for your herd
- See **Countdown Farm Guideline Fact Sheet C** for how to best make this decision

Review Farm Guideline 14 Decide dry cow mastitis strategy, drying-off dates and Dry Cow Treatment

Administer all intramammary tubes hygienically



Care must be taken to avoid introducing bacteria into the teat when using intramammary tubes

Quick check:

- Resources are well organized in advance (gloves, teat swabs, tubes, extra labour etc)
- Batch sizes are manageable so that every cow is treated as hygienically and effectively as the first
- Quarters are milked out completely prior to administration
- Antibiotic is *not* given to dry quarters
- All operators are trained in the correct way of giving intramammary treatments:
 - ✓ wear clean gloves
 - ✓ sanitize all teat ends before treatment
 - ✓ only insert dry, sterile tube nozzles into teat canals
 - ✓ disinfect teats immediately after treatment
- Records are kept on every treatment: cow ID, date and products used

Review Farm Guideline 17 Administer Dry Cow Treatments as recommended & Fact Sheet B The correct way to give intramammary treatments