



# Make drying off count

**Give your herd the best start next season.**

**A good dry cow treatment strategy:**

- ✓ cures old infections
- ✓ protects against new infections



**From Countdown Downunder, the national cell count and mastitis control program**

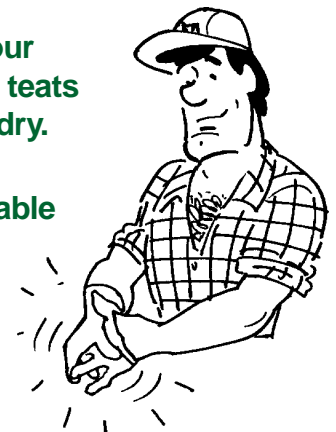


# The correct way to treatments at dry

It is easy to introduce bacteria into the teat with a treatment nozzle if the teat end is not disinfected properly. Before any material is infused into a quarter, the teat end must be disinfected very carefully. Infection with environmental bacteria can cause severe mastitis.

- **Plan for the time and labour that treatment takes.**
  - More than one person is often needed to do the job well, especially if cows are not used to having their teats handled.
  - Ensure operators are trained adequately in the procedure and supervised well.
  - In seasonal herds, keep the number of cows to be treated after any one milking to a manageable number.
- **Have the following ready in the dairy:**
  - Disposable gloves.
  - Teat wipes or cotton balls and a mixture of 70% alcohol (seven parts methylated spirits and three parts water).
  - Intramammary tube(s) – keep the tube sterile; do not warm tubes by putting them in a bucket of warm water (this increases the chance of contamination); do not remove the tube cap until ready for use.

- **Use Dry Cow Treatment only at the cow's last milking for the current lactation.**
  - Dry Cow Treatment is registered only for use immediately after a cow's last milking for a lactation.
  - If a quarter is dry, absorption of the antibiotic will be changed. Off-label use is strongly discouraged because drug residue risks increase and cure rates are likely to be reduced.
- **Restrain the cow so she can't move around too much.**
  - Sometimes this is difficult on a platform, but do what is possible. Another person holding the cow's tail as a 'tail jack' can be helpful.
- **Before infusing any treatment, ensure the quarter is completely milked out.**
- **Ensure that your hands and the teats are clean and dry.**
- **Put on disposable gloves.**



For more information about using Dry Cow Treatment, refer to the Countdown Downunder Farm Guidelines for Mastitis Control or visit: [www.countdown.org.au](http://www.countdown.org.au)

# How to give intramammary treatment during dry-off

## Dry Cow Treatment

- Treat *all* quarters of cows that receive Dry Cow Treatment (except quarters that have been dried off for some time in cows milked as 'three teaters').

- Completely disinfect the end of the teats. *This step is critical.*

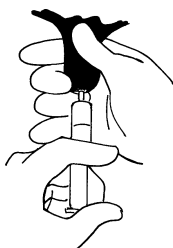
- Disinfect the teats furthest away first.
- Disinfect by rubbing the teat opening with a teat wipe or cotton ball and alcohol.
- Check the teat wipe or cotton ball. If there is any dirty colour, repeat using a clean teat wipe or cotton ball until there is no more dirt seen.



- Treat the teats nearest you first.

- Insert the tube into the teat canal.

- Remove the cap of the tube and, without touching its tip with your hand, gently insert the nozzle into the teat canal.
- It is not necessary to insert the nozzle to its full depth – this can dilate the teat canal excessively and predispose the cow to mastitis.

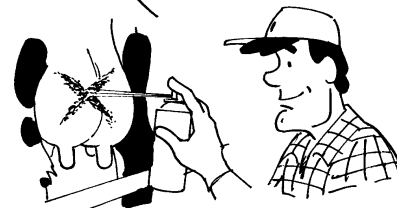


- Infuse the contents of the syringe into the teat. When using antibiotic treatment, massage it up the teat into the udder. Do not massage teats if using a teat sealant.

- Disinfect teats with freshly made up teat disinfectant immediately after treatment.

- Mark the udder (e.g. with spray paint) so that cows that have received Dry Cow Treatment can be easily recognised.

- This allows easy recognition if cows rejoin the herd in error.



- Record cow ID, date and product details of all Dry Cow Treatments.

- If cows calve early or a decision to cull them during the dry period is made, the date of the treatment and the withholding period of the product must be checked.

- Don't leave cows in laneways or yards immediately after Dry Cow Treatment.

- Avoid allowing them to lie down on bare ground or areas that are soiled with manure in the two hours immediately after treatment.

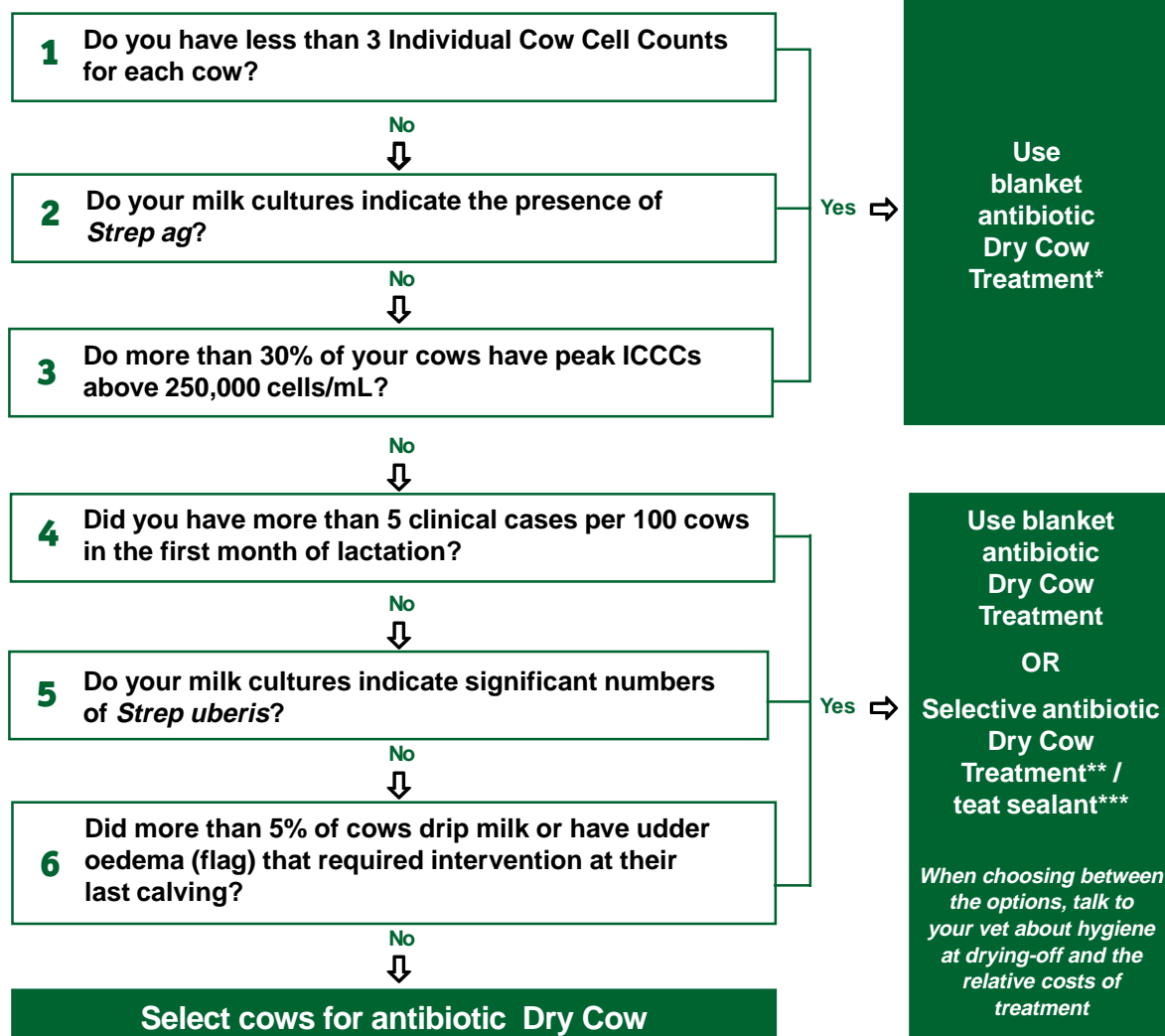
# A guide to choosing an appropriate dry cow treatment strategy



Use the information here and consult your veterinarian for advice. If you are milk recording, proceed down this chart. If you are not milk recording, use blanket antibiotic Dry Cow Treatment.

If answers to all questions are 'No', then use selective Dry Cow Treatment

If the answer to any question is 'Yes', then ...



\* If using blanket antibiotic Dry Cow Treatment, treat all quarters of all cows.

\*\* If using selective antibiotic Dry Cow Treatment, treat all quarters of cows that had clinical mastitis during the lactation and/or had an ICCC above 250,000 cells/mL during the lactation.

\*\*\* If using teat sealant, treat all quarters of cows that did *not* have clinical mastitis during the lactation and whose ICCC was always less than 250,000 cells/mL.