

GUIDELINE 23

Sign on for herd testing

In this guideline:

23.1 Sign on for herd testing

Good management requires good information. Without individual cow SCC data to reveal subclinical mastitis, mastitis is an invisible disease.

Remember ... you can't manage what you can't measure.



Mastitis Focus

The [Mastitis Focus](#) report uses your herd testing records and clinical case records to give an accurate overview of udder health in your herd. They help identify problem areas and track progress after any management changes are made. Contact your herd test provider for more information.



Good Read

[Technote 23 - Sign on for herd testing](#)

23.1 Sign on for herd testing.

Regular herd testing provides you with valuable information about:

- Milk yields - to aid drying-off decisions in late lactation.
- Individual cow SCC - to help:
 - identify individual cows that may be causing your bulk milk SCC to rise,
 - track new infection rate during key times of the year,
 - decisions about drying off treatment strategy,
 - decisions about culling.

Mastitis Focus

The [Mastitis Focus](#) report is more accurate and informative when:



- herd testing occurs more frequently ie. more 4 or more tests per lactation, and over consecutive seasons.
- data relating to clinical and dry cow treatment records are uploaded regularly to the herd test provider.

Herd improvement

Contact your herd test provider for more information on reviewing frequency of testing and uploading clinical records. Contact your local vet or [accredited vets](#) to find out how to make better use of herd information.



See [Guideline 12](#) for tips on using individual cow SCC for management decisions.

