# Mastitis Focus fact sheet Previous dry off strategies



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.

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.

# Understanding your report

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.

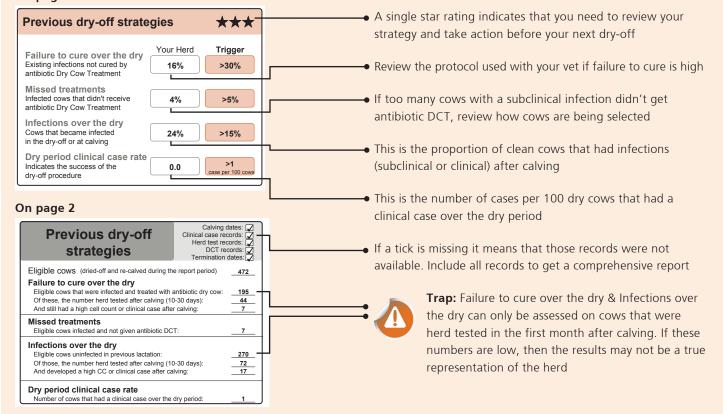
If you would like more detailed interpretation about what is happening in your herd contact an adviser in your area and/or visit **dairynz.co.nz/mastitis.** Tips around dry-off are found in Healthy Udder and in Guidelines 14 to 20, under Tools and Resources > Guidelines > Drying off.

Seek professional advice if mastitis indicators are above trigger levels. There are benefits to be gained through making improvements.

# Previous dry-off strategies

The **Previous dry-off strategies** box shows the extent that infected cows were cured and all cows in your herd were protected from dry-off until calving.

### On page 1



## Your records required for an accurate report

- 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 in the Farm Data Box to make sure herd test numbers look right.