

GUIDELINE 22

Conduct annual mastitis control activities and review achievements

In this guideline:

22.1 Mark 'a day in the office' on your calendar or diary to review progress and set goals

22.2 Involve all members of staff and family working on the farm

22.3 Arrange for your milking machine technician to test, service and (where necessary) upgrade your milking system

22.4 Calculate the figures for your farm for past 12 months, and set new targets

22.5 Seek advice if farm indicators are above the warning levels

Each year, time must be set aside to:

- Review achievements for the past 12 months.
- Undertake annual maintenance tasks.
- Set your goals for the next 12 months.
- Develop a plan to achieve these goals.



Good Read

[Technote 22 - Conduct annual mastitis control activities and review achievements](#)

22.1 Mark 'a day in the office' on your calendar or diary to review progress and set goals.

Mark 'a day in the office' on your calendar or diary. Set time aside well in advance. This set time may be in the dry period for seasonal herds, or a convenient period in split-calving herds.

Your annual Milk Quality Review with your vet is a timely opportunity to review animal health records.

Recognise that it may require involvement of a number of people on the farm as well as your qualified advisors, and may involve a number of conversations and discussions over a period of time.

22.2 Involve all members of staff and family working on the farm.

Involve all members of staff and family working on the farm in developing and reviewing mastitis control activities and achievements.

Consider also involving your milk quality advisor and veterinarian.



Working together

Highly productive workplaces are like successful sporting teams. While the performance of individuals is important, success requires that those individuals also work well together. Whether your farm is a small or large concern, family or corporate structure, you will benefit from improving team work on your farm.



Organise 'to do' lists

Make a list of tasks to be completed. Make sure that these tasks are allocated to someone and they set a regular time to do them, for example whenever liners are changed, check the teat sprayers too.

22.3 Arrange for your milking machine technician to test, service and (where necessary) upgrade your milking system.

Make an appointment with your milking machine technician for testing, servicing and (where necessary) upgrading your milking system. Make the appointment well in advance. The technician should be registered by NZMPTA standards.

Your milking machine should be fully tested and serviced at least twice a year, and you should receive a written report.

In addition, it should be monitored, tested and adjusted as often as necessary during lactation.



See [Guideline 6](#) for more on the regular maintenance and checks that the milking team can carry out.

See [Guideline 25](#) for more on different machine tests that certified machine testers can undertake.

22.4 Calculate the figures for your farm for past 12 months, and set new targets.

A review of the past 12 months will help set targets for the next 12 months. This review should summarise:

- The herd structure and production e.g. numbers of lactating cows, replacements and culls, age structure, production.
- Major elements of the mastitis control programme.
- Results of any special investigations e.g. bacterial cultures or machine upgrades.
- Any major events that affected the mastitis programme or the team.
- Brief description of the farm team members, including training that occurred.
- A review of the mastitis indicators e.g. reviewing bulk milk SCC trends through the year and running a Mastitis Focus Report.

Targets for the next 12 months should be:

- Realistic and achievable.
- More ambitious than the minimum requirements for the dairy company.
- More stringent than the SmartSAMM warning levels or 'triggers for action'.



Twelve months in review

A Mastitis Focus report provides a comprehensive summary of the herd's performance across key mastitis indicators, including clinical mastitis, spread of new infection and dry off strategies during a 12 month period.

Accuracy is greatly improved if clinical treatment details and dry cow treatments are recorded with your herd test provider.



See [Guideline 6](#) for more on regular checks of milking machine function that can be included in the plan.

See [Guideline 11](#) for tips on reviewing the bulk milk SCC.

See [Guideline 12](#) for tips on reviewing the individual cow SCC.

22.5 Seek advice if farm indicators are above the warning levels.

Seek professional advice if mastitis indicators are above trigger levels. SmartSAMM trigger levels are based on the performance of many herds. For herds exceeding these levels, there are benefits to be gained through making improvements.



SmartSAMM Gap Calculator

Use the [Gap Calculator](#) to compare your herd's udder health performance with SmartSAMM targets, and identify the value of improving performance.



See [Guideline 13.2](#) for a summary of SmartSAMM warning levels.