

Mastitis Focus fact sheet

Culling to control mastitis

Chronically infected cows act as a reservoir of mastitis infection.

Sometimes culling is the only way to get rid of mastitis as antibiotics do not eliminate all infections - especially in older cows that have long-standing infections and damaged udder tissue

Understanding your report

High numbers of chronically infected cows may increase the **New Infection Rate** and **Clinical Case Rates** at the top of your report in **Your Herd Annual Performance Summary**.

If you would like more detailed interpretation about what is happening in your herd contact an adviser in your area and/or visit smartsamm.co.nz. Ways of identifying high priority cows to cull for mastitis can be found in Guideline 15 under Resources > Guidelines > Drying off.

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

Culling to control mastitis

The **Culling to control mastitis** box in your report has more detail about the effectiveness of the culling policy in your herd.



Tip: Page 2 of your report the Farm Data Box shows the number of cows culled or died and the number of clinical cases – make sure the numbers look right!

On page 1

Culling to control mastitis	Your Herd	Trigger
Cows prone to clinical mastitis Cows in herd with 3 or more clinical cases in a lactation	3 cows	Any Cows
Cows infected in multiple lactations Cows still infected after 2 consecutive prior lactations despite intervening DCT	39 cows	Any Cows

- A single star rating indicates that you need to review your culling strategy
- The higher the number of chronically infected cows in the herd, the greater the risk of infection spreading to clean cows
- If a tick is missing it means that those records were not available. Include all records to get a comprehensive report

On page 2

Culling to control mastitis	Clinical case records: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Herd test records: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	DCT records: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Termination dates: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cows prone to clinical mastitis Number of cows in herd with 3 or more clinical cases in a lactation:	3
Cows infected in multiple lactations Number of cows still infected after 2 consecutive prior lactations despite intervening DCT	39



Trap: If clinical case records are not supplied then the analysis of cows can not be done



Trap: If DCT records are not supplied then the analysis of cows infected across multiple lactations can not be done



Tip: SmartSAMM Mastitis Focus does not list individual cows. A review of your clinical case records and herd test cell counts will be needed to identify which cows to cull.

Your records required for an accurate report

- Complete clinical case records are needed to identify cows persistently infected within one lactation
- At least three years' worth of individual cow SCC records and complete DCT records are needed to identify cows infected across multiple lactations
- It is important that terminations (records of culls and deaths) are up-to-date as only cows that are still on the farm should be counted.