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.

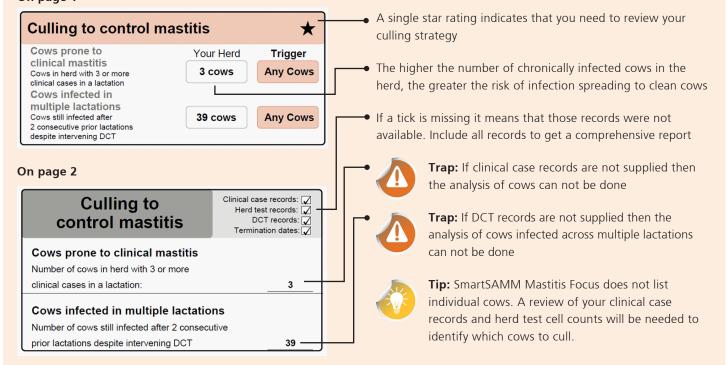
Culling to control mastitis

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



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.