



SCC DIAGNOSTICS TOOL BOX



W-MP-1: Milk Quality Self Assessment Test

For each of the following items, please choose the one option that best represents your farming practices (by filling in the bubble below the answer).

1. Which BTSCC range best represents your average over the past 6 months?

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| > 500,000 | 400-499,000 | 300-399,000 | 200-299,000 | < 200,000 |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 6 | <input type="radio"/> 8 | <input type="radio"/> 10 |

2. Which level of clinical mastitis best represents your current monthly rate? (average # CM/month / average # lactating cows x 100 = % CM/ month)

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5% or greater | 3-4.9% | 2-2.9% | 1-1.9% | < 1% |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 6 | <input type="radio"/> 8 | <input type="radio"/> 10 |

3. How frequently do you remove udder hair?

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Do not remove | Annually | Every 6 months | Every 3 months |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 |

4. How frequently do you groom/clean and remove soiled bedding from your stalls?

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Weekly | 3 times/week | Daily | Every milking |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 |

5. To what degree do you use antibiotic dry cow treatment?

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Do not use | On only selected cows | On all quarters of all cows |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 |

6. To what degree do you use teat sealer for dry cows?

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Do not use | Use external sealer | Use internal sealer |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 |

7. How often do you observe dry cows for mastitis?

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| At calving only | Monthly | Weekly | Daily | At each milking |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |

8. How often do you clean maternity pens?

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| After more than 5 calves | After 2-3 calves | Between each calf |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 |

9. How often do you add fresh bedding to maternity pens?

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| After more than 5 calves | After 2-3 calves | Between each calf |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 |

-
10. Do you use a quarter milker to divert milk from high SCC quarters away from the bulk tank?
- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Do not use quarter milker | From high SCC chronic quarters | From any CMT positive quarter |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 |
-
11. Which of these two options best represents your approach to milking?
- | | |
|--|--|
| Milking quickly is more important than milking details | Attending to specific milking details is more important than completing the task quickly |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 4 |
-
12. To what degree do you use fore-stripping?
- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| I do not use fore-stripping | I use fore-stripping to check for clinical mastitis and stimulate milk letdown |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 4 |
-
13. How long do your milkers prep udders before milking?
- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|---|
| < 7 seconds | 7-10 seconds | Teat prep 10-20 seconds with no emphasis on teat end | Teat prep 10-20 seconds including teat end cleaning |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 6 | <input type="radio"/> 8 |
-
14. How often do your milkers achieve complete pre-dip teat coverage of disinfectant before milking?
- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Don't use pre-dip | Seldom | Sometimes | Most of the time | Always |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 6 | <input type="radio"/> 8 | <input type="radio"/> 10 |
-
15. How often do your milkers achieve complete post-dip teat coverage of disinfectant after milking?
- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Don't use post-dip | Seldom | Sometimes | Most of the time | Always |
| <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 6 | <input type="radio"/> 8 | <input type="radio"/> 10 |
-
16. How often do you have a complete performance check on your milking equipment?
- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| When needed | Annually | Every 6 months | Every 3 months |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 |
-
17. To what degree do you/farm employees keep abreast of current milking and mastitis control practices?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Do not find it necessary | Employees do but I do not | I do but employees do not | My employees and I keep updated |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 |
-
18. Do you use individual cow SCC testing?
- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Do not use | Use every other month or quarterly | Use monthly |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 |
-
19. Do you use bulk tank or individual cow culturing to identify mastitis pathogens?
- | | | |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Do not use | Use only when necessary to solve problem | Use culturing routinely |
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 |

20. To what extent do you seek advice from veterinarians and/or milk quality specialists regarding issues related to mastitis and milk quality?

I rarely seek advice (only when
problems occur)

1

I sometimes seek advice

2

I often seek advice

3

Tally your score by adding the numerical value beside each answer you selected.

Your score is: (total points)

- 90 - 101 points = Excellent!! Keep up the good work.
- 75 - 89 points = Good job. However, there is still room for improvement.
- 50 - 74 points = Fair. Time to get serious about milk quality
- < 50 - points = Time to get with it! Are you producing food or running a summer camp for bacteria?

