



MAKE ACUMEN DETECTION PART OF YOUR PLAN.

Every dairy operation is unique, and only you can determine the most effective mastitis-control plan for your farm. These proven steps are a great place to start. Put them into daily practice, and ask your veterinarian or animal health supplier about the benefits of Acumen's Acu-POLARIS Detection System for same-day, on-farm pathogen detection.

*Source: *Progressive Dairyman*, May 20, 2013, "Mastitis prevention and control: A prevention methodology," Ira Weisberg. www.progressivedairy.com/topics/herd-health/mastitis-prevention-and-control-a-prevention-methodology

Controlling Mastitis: Best Management Practices

There are a number of time-tested, proven steps you can take to manage mastitis, limit the spread of intramammary infections and stay one step ahead of bacterial growth within your herd.

A recent *Progressive Dairyman* article referred to a series of nine "scientifically proven principles" all dairy farms should consider when developing a mastitis-prevention protocol.* Here's a summary:

1. CLEAN SURROUNDINGS

Create a clean, stress-free environment, including clean stalls and parlor.

2. CLEAN TEATS

Always clean teats before attaching the milking machine. This is essential to prevent bacteria from being forced into the teat during milking. Beware of using too much water in the cleaning process, as it can unwittingly spread bacteria.

3. HEALTHY TEATS

Examine the udder before each milking. Do not use chapped, cracked or bleeding teats, as these are susceptible to new infections.

4. TEAT DIPS

High-quality germicidal teat dips reduce bacteria on teats and help lower the number of new intramammary infections. Follow careful procedures to keep dip cups clean.

5. DOUBLE DIP

An extra dipping step with pre-dip can be valuable in reducing somatic cell counts.

6. DRY TEATS

Before milking, dry teats with either a paper towel or reusable cloth towel, one per cow. Dryness is essential for best suction and also prevents chapping, further protecting the cow from mastitis-causing bacteria.

7. FORE-STRIP EACH QUARTER

Fore-stripping can increase milk flow rate, improve milk quality and teat end health, reduce the rate of new infections and improve parlor performance.

8. KNOW YOUR EQUIPMENT

Be sure all personnel are trained on the proper use of milking equipment (attachment, adjustment, removal). This includes understanding the need for careful observation and adjustment throughout the milking process.

9. NEVER STOP MONITORING

Sticking to a carefully planned milking parlor routine is an important component of a mastitis management program. This requires diligence to ensure that all staff are using machines properly and following mastitis-control protocol.