

DRY PERIOD MASTITIS

It is best to rely on observation and palpation (feeling) to identify mastitis in the dry period. The success of drying off and mastitis control during the dry period depends on the formation of an effective teat plug. Removing the teat plug should be avoided. Feel for firmness of udder tissue, heat and swelling. Just fluid in the bottom of the udder is not mastitis, in the absence of any other symptoms, and is of little concern.

When treating mastitis, use lactation products only. Treat daily for 3 days, with once or twice a day stripping. Once the mastitis is successfully treated DO NOT use dry cow preparations to follow up with. Dry cow therapy may not be effectively absorbed following treatment after drying off, therefore it may remain in the udder cistern and can be absorbed as the cow starts to spring up closer to calving – effectively beginning the withholding period at that time.