

Avoiding Summer Somatic Cell Count Rises

As milk yields fall, SCC will rise in cows with sub-clinical mastitis due to a concentration effect. Any rise in the BMSCC will be increased if the rate of new sub-clinical infections is not being controlled.

Suggestions to help keep BTSCC counts down:

- Ensure machines and rubber-ware are maintained to prevent teat end injury.
- Continue to teat spray at effective concentrations to minimise the passive transfer of new sub-clinical infections, often caused by common skin bacteria, to non-infected cows - **Keep the clean cows clean.**
- The convention of adopting a lower concentration of teat spray solutions in so-called “low risk” periods may need to be re-evaluated. The emphasis must be on avoiding new sub-clinical infections at all times of the year. Some of the “low risk” solutions may be too low to achieve this.
- One helpful tip is to monitor new infection rates using the front sheet of the herd test SCC report. Especially keep an eye on the number of cows in the 250-500,000 range.
- Consider treating new sub-clinical infections, especially in young cows.
- Strategically dry off high cell count cows (with treatment) to avoid high bulk counts, especially if on once a day milking.