

Ken Mitchell, DVM
Valley Veterinarians, Inc.
Milk Quality Laboratory document

Recommendations for regular herd sampling:

- 1) *Regular tank samples (once per week)*
 - 2) *Sample all new clinical cases of mastitis*
 - 3) *Sample all animals new to herd (purchased heifers or cows)*
 - 4) *Fresh cow and Fresh heifer samples: an option exercised at times of risk or expansion, or during an outbreak.*
- freeze all samples for weekly pick-up.

Sampling for herd expansion or purchase (preferably prior to purchase):

- 1) *Bulk tank samples (3 or more separate tank samples over 2 or 3 weeks) if a herd is being purchased.*
- 2) *If bulk tanks indicate problems, a whole herd culture is indicated prior to purchase, with contingencies for culling of positive *Mycoplasma* or *Staph Aureus* written into the purchase agreement.*
- 3) *If purchasing fresh heifers or closeup heifers, recommend all animals are individually sampled.*

Staph Aureus positive cultures: Recommendations

Pre-purchase Staph Aureus positives (cows or heifers)

-remove from purchase group prior to purchase, or cull and reimburse according to the pre-purchase agreement. You are paying for a "normal" animal.

On-hand Staph Aureus positive heifers (home raised or no reimbursement agreement)

Fresh or non clinical: *Identify as staph aureus (leg band and identify in computer)*
Segregate to staph string if you have one.

Treat all 4 quarters with a Pirsue tube twice over 3 day period.

(three-peat treatment)

Re-sample animal in 2-3 weeks.

Clinical cases of mastitis that are Staph positive:

Identify (leg band, STAPH event in computer).

Segregate into the Staph or trouble string (milked last).

Attempt 3-peat treatment if a younger animal (lact=1, DIM<100)

Cull if repeats as a clinical case of mastitis.

-Zero tolerance is an option (cull) for some producers, even in first calf heifers.

Staph Aureus positive cows (fresh or clinical)

-identify and segregate.

-aggressively cull (zero tolerance for repeats).