

# Mastitis Management Checklist

Clinical mastitis during the dry period and the crucial period around calving can cost you big money and cause major disruptions to the start of the season. It can be managed successfully. Can you tick all of the boxes on this checklist? If the answer is yes, you'll be well on the way to successful mastitis management.

## Drying off

- Feed is reduced (maintenance, but not starvation levels) 2 – 3 days before drying off. Water is not reduced.
- Higher producers (greater than 10L/day) are kept on a maintenance diet 5 – 7 days after drying off.
- Cows are dried off promptly (not 'skip-a-day' milking) to reduce SCC rise, reduce clinical mastitis, and to allow a good teat seal to form.
- The whole herd is treated with dry cow therapy\* immediately after the last milking.
- The very best hygiene is maintained at dry cow therapy treatment time, including teat spraying.
- Cows are kept off muddy yards and tracks and put into clean, maintenance level pasture for 3 – 4 days after drying off.
- Chronic mastitis sufferers are culled.

\* Not only does dry cow therapy help manage clinical mastitis, research shows that herds treated with Cepravin® have lower bulk tank somatic cell counts throughout the following lactation (data on file).

## Dry period

- Cows are observed carefully each day in the paddock for signs of mastitis.
- Cows are checked for clinical mastitis weekly over 2 – 3 weeks, ideally in the dairy shed.
- Mastitis in dry cows should be treated with lactating treatments, **not** dry cow therapy.

## Calving and the following lactation

- Cows are calved down on to 'clean' pasture, with minimal time on muddy raceways and yards.
- Colostrum cows are carefully checked for subclinical mastitis before they move into the milking mob.
- Cows leaking milk before calving are recognised as being especially at risk of mastitis around calving.
- Teat spraying is an essential part of your milking routine right through lactation.
- Good mastitis records are kept.