

SELECTIVE DRY COW THERAPY



What is Dry Cow Therapy?

Dry cow therapy has been a common practice on most dairy farms around the country for many years. When cows are dried off, a long-acting intramammary antibiotic is infused into each quarter for a few reasons:

- Treat an existing infection
- Prevent new infections
- Help achieve a lower somatic cell count at freshening
- Prevent clinical mastitis at freshening

What is Selective Dry Cow Therapy (SDCT)?

SDCT is a fairly new concept that tailors a dry-off protocol to the needs of individual cows or even individual quarters. Based on predetermined criteria, long-acting antibiotics are administered sparingly. An internal teat sealant is used for all cows and in all quarters, but antibiotic tubes are minimized.



Benefits of SDCT

- Reduce antibiotic usage by up to 55%*
- Reduce product cost
- Minimize formation of antibiotic-resistant bacteria

Who Would Benefit?

While SDCT sounds good, it may not be the right fit for all. Farms must have the following:

- Annual somatic cell count (SCC) of less than 250,000
- Control of Staph aureus or Strep agalactiae infections
- A well-trained dry-off team
- Good record keeping to track success

What is the Process?

OPTION 1: ALGORITHM GUIDED METHOD

Utilize DHIA monthly data

All cows that are enrolled in the Selective Dry Cow Therapy program must meet all of the following criteria:

- SCC is below 200,000 for the entire lactation
- Free of clinical mastitis within 14 days of dry-off
- Only had one clinical mastitis case during the entire lactation

If a cow meets ALL of the above criteria then an internal teat sealant is inserted in all four quarters, and no intramammary antibiotic tubes are necessary. If all of the above criteria are NOT met, then an intramammary antibiotic tube is chosen and inserted in all four quarters followed by a teat sealant.

OPTION 2: CULTURE METHOD

Utilize on-farm or diagnostic lab culturing

Two days before the dry-off period, collect and culture either a composite milk sample or individual quarter samples.

- If there is growth on a composite milk culture, treat all four quarters with an intramammary antibiotic tube followed by an internal teat sealant
- Only the quarters **with growth** are treated with an intramammary antibiotic tube followed by an internal teat sealant
- If there is no growth on a composite milk culture or on an individual quarter culture, only use a teat sealant

Regardless of which SDCT option is used, it is critical to properly clean and sterilize the teat end so bacteria is not introduced during the dry off process. Since no intramammary antibiotic is used there is nothing except the cow's natural immune defenses to ward off a toxic mastitis infection. ***Please reach out to an Armor veterinarian for more information.***

DETECT. DEFEND. DELIVER.

SELECTIVE DRY COW THERAPY



Milk Culture Supplies

A crucial step in implementing Selective Dry Cow Therapy (SDCT) is monitoring and evaluating the program's effectiveness. This includes routinely sampling and testing milk to help you and your veterinarian make informed treatment decisions. When culturing samples, cleanliness is of utmost importance. Contaminated samples may not provide accurate results, and in some cases that can lead to unnecessary use of antibiotics and expense.

For current pricing on these supplies, contact your Armor Animal Health representative or visit ArmorAnimalHealth.com.



Cotton-Tipped Applicators

Sterile single-tipped applicator with 6" L shaft.

17180 - 100 ct

20308 - 2/pk x 100 pks



Inoculating Loops

Used to streak a sample on the culture plate.

10338 - 25 ct



Milk Vials

Used to collect milk samples for testing purposes.

12061 - 11 mL; 10/pk

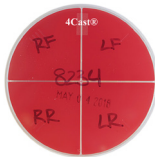
12063 - 30 mL



Minnesota Easy® Culture Quadplate with 4Cast® Media

4Cast® culture media will grow both gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria, as well as non-bacterial pathogens such as prototheca and yeast. The media also aids in the detection of Staph aureus.

27267 - 15 ct - Special order; drop ship only



INCUBATORS

Hova-Bator Incubator

Small, economical and reliable. The radiant heat tube gently warms and keeps air flowing. Styrofoam case material with window for viewing.

12556



Jorgensen Incubator

A compact, inexpensive, and reliable incubator that is perfect for incubating cultures.

15711 - Special order; drop ship only



DRY COW TREATMENT TUBES

During times when dry cows tubes are in short supply, it can be tempting to switch to whatever tube is currently available. However, not all products are created equal. For example, some dry cow tubes are more effective against coliforms while others offer less protection. It is critical to work with your Armor Animal Health or herd veterinarian before switching to a different mastitis tube to ensure your cows' safety and wellbeing.

Helpful Resources



Aseptic Milk Sample Collection Poster

Source: University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Library; vdl.umn.edu/sites/vdl.umn.edu/files/sample-collection-poster.pdf



Selective Dry Cow Therapy Cost Calculator

Source: University of Minnesota; dairyknow.umn.edu/research/udder-health/selective-dry-cow-therapy-cost-calculator/

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