

# Mastitis Focus fact sheet

## Previous dry off strategies

A good drying off strategy is much more than simply choosing a suitable antibiotic Dry Cow Treatment (DCT). Sufficient planning and good technique are needed to achieve a successful outcome.

The drying-off strategy used in your herd should have:

1. Cured cows that were subclinically infected during the lactation, and
2. Protected all cows from infection over the dry period until the time of calving.

### Understanding your report

A high **Clinical Case Rate** at calving in **Your Herd Annual Performance Summary** may be the first indication of a weakness in the dry cow strategy used in the herd.

If you would like more detailed interpretation about what is happening in your herd contact an adviser in your area and/or visit [dairynz.co.nz/mastitis](http://dairynz.co.nz/mastitis). Tips around dry-off are found in Healthy Udder and in Guidelines 14 to 20, under Tools and Resources > Guidelines > Drying off.

Seek professional advice if mastitis indicators are above trigger levels. There are benefits to be gained through making improvements.

### Previous dry-off strategies

The **Previous dry-off strategies** box shows the extent that infected cows were cured and all cows in your herd were protected from dry-off until calving.

#### On page 1

Previous dry-off strategies		★ ★ ★
	Your Herd	Trigger
<b>Failure to cure over the dry</b> Existing infections not cured by antibiotic Dry Cow Treatment	16%	>30%
<b>Missed treatments</b> Infected cows that didn't receive antibiotic Dry Cow Treatment	4%	>5%
<b>Infections over the dry</b> Cows that became infected in the dry-off or at calving	24%	>15%
<b>Dry period clinical case rate</b> Indicates the success of the dry-off procedure	0.0	>1 case per 100 cows

- A single star rating indicates that you need to review your strategy and take action before your next dry-off
- Review the protocol used with your vet if failure to cure is high
- If too many cows with a subclinical infection didn't get antibiotic DCT, review how cows are being selected
- This is the proportion of clean cows that had infections (subclinical or clinical) after calving
- This is the number of cases per 100 dry cows that had a clinical case over the dry period

#### On page 2

Previous dry-off strategies		Calving dates: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Clinical case records: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Herd test records: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DCT records: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Termination dates: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Eligible cows (dried-off and re-calved during the report period)	472					
<b>Failure to cure over the dry</b>	Eligible cows that were infected and treated with antibiotic dry cow: 195					
	Of these, the number herd tested after calving (10-30 days): 44					
	And still had a high cell count or clinical case after calving: 7					
<b>Missed treatments</b>	Eligible cows infected and not given antibiotic DCT: 7					
<b>Infections over the dry</b>	Eligible cows uninfected in previous lactation: 270					
	Of those, the number herd tested after calving (10-30 days): 72					
	And developed a high CC or clinical case after calving: 17					
<b>Dry period clinical case rate</b>	Number of cows that had a clinical case over the dry period: 1					

- If a tick is missing it means that those records were not available. Include all records to get a comprehensive report
- **Trap:** Failure to cure over the dry & Infections over the dry can only be assessed on cows that were herd tested in the first month after calving. If these numbers are low, then the results may not be a true representation of the herd

### Your records required for an accurate report

- Only cows that were dried off and re-calved during the report period are included in these measures
- Dry off dates, Dry Cow Treatment records and calving dates are needed
- Herd test records are needed to identify subclinically infected cows. Check page 2 of your report in the Farm Data Box to make sure herd test numbers look right.