



# Deckerville Veterinary Clinic, P.C.

www.deckervillevet.com

March 2, 2009

“Making your milk count” As the milk price continues its downward spiral in this low part of the cycle, it is important to make the most for your milk. Obviously making more milk with less inputs is an option but at the same time please consider making more *quality* milk.

Where is the breaking point of more milk versus quality? In other words, does it pay to have that high somatic cell count cow milking 70 pounds in your bulk tank? According to DFA Today on February 27, Federal Order class prices for February 2009 were for Class II \$10.25, Class III \$9.31, and Class IV \$9.45, down almost \$9 from 2008.

Michigan Milk (MMPA Policies as of February 2009)

|                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 50,000 or below + 55¢/cwt.    | 176,000 - 200,000 + 25¢ /cwt. |
| 51,000 - 75,000 + 50¢/cwt.    | 201,000 - 225,000 + 20¢ /cwt. |
| 76,000 - 100,000 + 45¢ /cwt.  | 226,000 - 275,000 + 10¢ /cwt. |
| 101,000 - 125,000 + 40¢ /cwt. | 501,000 - 600,000 - 10¢ /cwt. |
| 126,000 - 150,000 + 35¢ /cwt. | 601,000 - 750,000 - 50¢ /cwt  |
| 151,000 - 175,000 + 30¢ /cwt. | Over 750,000 - \$1.50 /cwt.   |

| Tank SCC | Number cows | Milk/cow | Cents/lb | \$/day        |
|----------|-------------|----------|----------|---------------|
| 300,000  | 100         | 70       | 10.00    | 700.00        |
| 150,000  | 100         | 70       | 10.35    | 724.50        |
| 150,000  | <b>97</b>   | 70       | 10.35    | <b>702.77</b> |

The table to the right is an example of where the breakeven point is if you can drop your SCC to a 35 cent premium rate. You can milk 3 less cows (97) in a day and make more money than you would milking 100 at 300,000 SCC. The difference is \$81/month or \$1100/year and that is only on 100 cows. Check your somatic cell counts if you are sitting on the line of a quality difference to see what cows are causing your tank to be high. In herds under 100 cows one cow can spike the entire tank costing you money.

California mastitis tests or CMTs should be used on any suspect cow. If she is positive in a quarter, milk that quarter separately (out of the tank) and perform a milk culture. Early treatments are more successful than later and cost less as well. Do not treat blindly as this can lead to increased antibiotic resistance and chronic mastitis cases. Milking high SCC quarters separately may also significantly reduce bulk tank SCC. Try it and see.

Hi everyone,

February as usual is a busy month for the clinic. The weather has had some up and downs. Our first week started out with a bang. When the guys came in on the 5th for their weekly meeting they put on their waders, we had a pipe freeze which obviously had been spraying water for awhile. I tell you we enjoyed watching Mark and Gary swinging mops! Not something we usually see. Everyone pitched in and got the mess cleaned up.

We seem to be plagued with sporadic backorders on J-Vac, Onset, SRP and Pyramid 10. Watch your inventory on these items. Of course these aren't the only backorders, just the most commonly ordered products. Pfizer has a producer promotion going Feb. 1st – March 31st. Please visit our web page for additional details. Click on the large animal tab at the top and look under What's New. There is a link to the page that lists the products and the requirements. There is a beef and dairy promotion. Sorry, Leaders Edge clients are not able to participate in this promotion—Pfizer's rule. Our web address is at the top of the page.

We enjoyed a good turnout for our winter meeting. Thank you to all whom RSVP'd it helps a great deal with the planning. Stay warm and think spring it is just around the corner.....Helen