



From the Dr's desk.....Dr. Michelle Borek

The National Mastitis Council Regional Meeting held in Green Bay, Wisconsin in early August titled "Heat, Humidity and High Quality Milk: Tackling the Summertime Blues" gave us new insight on therapy and control of summertime mastitis.

The heat and humidity during the summer months are ideal growing conditions for bacteria. Cows, on the other hand, prefer the range of 41-77 degrees Fahrenheit. Fresh cows suffer more from heat stress resulting in a decrease in milk production and reduction of the cows' immunity as humidity increases. Monitoring day to day bulk tank somatic cell counts can give new insight as to what cows are dealing with as the weather turns. If an upward trend is noticed, time should be taken to look at the cow's environment. New studies demonstrate that cows need to lie down and rest for 12-14 hours a day for maximum productivity. Therefore, a clean comfortable environment is a necessity.

Environmental pathogens are just that, products of the environment. Studies have shown that *Strept uberis* grows exceptionally well in straw, while *E.coli* and *Klebsiella spp.* populations elevate in sawdust, shavings, and recycled manure solids. Bacteria require organic material to survive. Therefore, it is essential that bedding material is kept clean of manure, urine, milk, etc. Coliform infections can last weeks where as environment *Strept* infections can last weeks to months. Given the opportunity, environmental pathogens will become chronic and subclinical. Fresh cows have the highest incidence of environmental infections. Immune stressors such as heat stress, overcrowding, hot feed, and calving are the risk factors that lead to clinical mastitis. Limiting teat end exposure is essential in the prevention of environmental mastitis. Focus on keeping clean and dry cow environments including the dry cow and close-up heifer pens, the calving area, fresh cow lactating area, the milking parlor and milking hygiene. The same holds true for pastured animals. The pastures should be clean and dry. Use a rotational system if the pasture gets too moist and contaminated.

Keeping mastitis under control requires good teamwork, communication, monitoring, and using tools for monitoring. Create a team that is focused on mastitis control and is committed to following up on records and monitoring. Easy monitoring tools include the California Mastitis Test (CMT), visual inspection, culture and sensitivity, records (paper, DC 305, PC DART), and Somatic cell counts. CMT is a very economical, easy to use, and accurate tool. Remember if there is gel present, there is udder inflammation likely due to a bacterial insult. If there is no gel then she is clean. Fresh cow mastitis can be monitored on day one with a CMT paddle, with a negative result being 100% accurate. If there is a positive teat, be sure to take a clean sample. We do in house cultures and sensitivities here at the clinic. For advice on monitoring or doing herd cultures please talk with your veterinarian.

~A New Face~



You will be hearing another new voice on the phone here at Deckerville Veterinary Clinic.

Denneil Park is a life-long area resident from the Palms area. She is married to Jim Park and they have 3 children, Tyler 5, Jenna 4, and Trenten 8 months. She enjoys scrapbooking, traveling & movies.