Boehringer Ingelheim

Technical Bulletin

Boehringer Ingelheim
Vetmedica, Inc.

Somatic Cell Counts

Key Points

High Somatic Cell Counts are Indicators of Udder Health

- Somatic cells, a combination of white blood cells and epithelial cells sloughed from tissues into the udder, are indicators of mastitis infection.
- When a bacterial invasion occurs, white blood cells increase and cause somatic cell counts to increase.
- Dairy producers lose milk when somatic cell counts are high.
- Milk loss means dollars lost.

Production Losses per Cow per Year

Somatic Cell Count	% Loss	Lbs Milk Loss	Dollar Loss at $14/cwt	Dollar Loss at $16/cwt
500,000	6	1200	$168	$192
1,000,000	18	3600	504	576
1,500,000	29	5800	812	928

Average yearly production assumed to be 20,000 lbs.

Percent Milk Loss per Cow per Year

Somatic Cell Count	Estimated Percent Milk Loss
Less than 300,000	0 - 2.5
300,000-500,000	2.5 - 7.5
500,000-800,000	7.5 - 15.0
More than 800,000	15.0 - 25.0

Study Confirms *Staph aureus* as Primary Pathogen in Subclinical Mastitis

A study by J.L. Watts and W.E. Owens, Hill Farm Research Station, Louisiana State University, in four different dairies, isolated *Staph aureus* in 14.2% and 24.8% of the quarters in two herds with high and moderate somatic cell counts and 0.9% of quarters of each of the two herds with low somatic cell counts.

In all four herds *Staph aureus* is the major pathogen resulting in high somatic cell counts.

The Bottom Line

- Herd health measures to reduce *Staph aureus* infection has economic benefits.
- **Lysigin**® bacterin is an important part of a mastitis control program.
- Add **Lysigin** to good management and sanitation practices in the fight against *Staph aureus* mastitis.

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