

cases of mastitis show no visible signs and can only be detected by testing for a high somatic cell count or the bacteria itself.

A cow can get a mastitis infection from many different sources depending on the organism, but bacteria are usually divided into two categories, contagious and environmental.

Mastitis is considered to be contagious when the bacteria are primarily spread from cow to cow during milking. The major contagious pathogens of concern to most herds are Staph aureus, Strep ag, and Mycoplasma bovis. Typically contagious bacteria are spread during milking time and are passed from cow to cow from dirty milking units, equipment malfunction during milking time, and improper milking procedures.

Environmental mastitis comes from microorganisms that are found commonly on any dirty surface that the animal is exposed to throughout the day. While environmental mastitis can readily grow inside the mammary gland, the microorganisms can survive on any surface that has a place for it to grow, such as dirt and manure. Major environmental bacteria are spread by exposing the teat end to the dirty environment and from improper cleaning of the teat end prior to milking. Organisms that are considered environmental include E. coli, Klebsiella and environmental Streptococci.

The final piece of a good mastitis management program is treatment. In the past, most cases of mastitis have been treated with antibiotics, but we now know that antibiotics are ineffective against many different types of infections. For contagious mastitis Strep ag. can be cured relatively easy with antibiotics, Staph aureus is much harder to control. Currently there is no effective treatment for mycoplasma.

Most environmental mastitis, while can be treated by antibiotics, are more effectively managed by maintaining cow cleanliness and a up-to-date vaccination program. In any case, when a problem is identified it is important to go back to the first key and review the farm prevention program.

For more information about Mastitis testing, contact your local veterinarian as they can assist you with individual on-farm testing. And for more information overall Milk Quality and Mastitis Control check out the National Mastitis Council at www.nmconline.org.

NEW INNOVATIVE RESOURCE GUIDE

For over 30 years Accelerated Genetics has established a tradition of providing solution-based products that meet the changing needs of dairy and beef producers around the world. Accelerated Genetics is excited to unveil the new 'Innovative Resource Guide,' which is a complete guide to all products and is a resource of animal health care information.

The guide was developed for producers as a resource for calf care management; cow

nutrition and feed quality; udder health and milk quality; organic solutions; breeding supplies; and much more.

The 'Innovative Resource Guide' contains fundamental information on animal health care that will assist producers in obtaining a healthy and productive herd. Topics included in this edition are:

- Benchmarks: Calf Performance & Health
- Bloating in Calves
- Cold Weather Calf Management
- Energy - A Limiting Nutrient in Winter
- Five Factors Affecting Calf Performance
- Five Simple Rules for Feeding Colostrum
- Medication and Milk Replacers
- Protocol: Rehydration of Scouring Calves
- Bunker and Silo Gas Safety
- Direct-Fed Microbial Protocols
- Key Points on Heat Stress and Temperature and Humidity Charts
- Potential Solutions for Multiple Symptoms
- Mastitis Management
- Udder Hygiene Scoring Chart
- Bedding Conditioner Research & Benefits
- When to Replace Your Old Semen Tank



Accelerated Genetics, where "Innovation FEEDS Excellence!" Accelerated Genetics possesses the vision needed to help today's producers bring excellence to their herds.

TAKE PHOTOS, WIN A DIGITAL CAMERA

Do you enjoy taking photos? Well, if so, have you ever thought about entering a photo contest? This year Accelerated Genetics' Annual Photo Contest is giving away a digital camera to the winning entry along with some other great prizes.

The themes for this year's contest are: 'Favorite Cows' and 'Picturesque Pastures'. For full contest details check out the January 2009 Genetic Trends or go to www.accelgen.com. The entry deadline is **September 1, 2009**.



Photo by: Alex Souza