James Lee, Winnington Green Farm

**Ultra cleanliness and following a set routine with every cow are essential**

Arla Foods introduces new standard
Arla Foods are introducing a new standard for their UK farmers from October 2015 known as Arlagården. One of the main points will be to reduce blanket dry cow therapy and introduce a more selective approach.

Arla Foods introduce new standard

**Not all farms, herds or individual cows will be suitable for a SDCT programme**

**SDCT does not mean you have to stop using antibiotics all together**
Selective dry cow therapy (SDCT) is a decision made at dry off, about whether your cows receive antibiotic dry cow therapy (ADCT) in addition to an internal teat sealant such as OrbeSeal®.

Why antibiotic dry cow therapy?
The use of ADCT has been established for more than 50 years. In 1963, the ‘Five point mastitis control plan’ advocated blanket therapy with antibiotics and this had an adoption rate of 75%-99% depending on the country. In some herds, over 60% of clinical mastitis cases can be traced to bacterial infections that occur in the dry period. This is why ADCT is highly effective and plays an important role in the modern UK dairy herd.

Why OrbeSeal?
The introduction of OrbeSeal internal teat sealant set a new standard for prevention of dry period mastitis. Up to half of all high yielding dairy cows may fail to develop a complete keratin plug in the dry period and without this barrier there is a greater risk of bacteria entering the udder. By imitating the cow’s natural keratin plug, OrbeSeal prevents mastitis-causing bacteria from entering the teat during the entire dry period, consistently reducing mastitis by around 35%.

Making the right decision
All cows benefit from the protection given by the teat sealant OrbeSeal, but not all cows need an antibiotic during the dry period. If a cow does require antibiotic therapy at dry off, then the decision is about selecting the most appropriate product for the cow’s requirements and likely bacterial type.

Governments, human health agencies, consumer groups and food retailers are putting greater pressure on food producers to justify the use of antibiotics.

Dairy companies such as Arla now require that farmers discuss SDCT with their vets.

What are the benefits of SDCT?
- Potential for reducing antibiotics used on farm
- Can reduce amount and severity of mastitis cases
- Reduced medicine costs compared to blanket combination therapy

A SDCT programme that consists of all cows being treated with OrbeSeal can help reduce antibiotic usage in 2 ways:
- Less antibiotic used in dry cow therapy
- Reduced number of clinical mastitis treatments

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL SCC

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What could my treatment protocols look like?
Depending on your farm, herd and individual animal factors, your cows will be selected for one of the treatment options below:

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What is selective dry cow therapy important?
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WHY do I implement a selective dry cow programme?
Your vet will help you determine whether your farm and herd are suitable for implementing a SDCT programme. Not all farms or herds will be suitable and information about your herd's mastitis status will help determine this.

You need the following information about your herd to make an evaluation:
- Bulk milk somatic cell count
- Records of mastitis incidences
- Outbreak type (pathogen profile)

If you don’t already collect this data, your vet will discuss other options for management of the dry period and can advise you if it’s appropriate to start collecting this data.

If you have the above data available, your vet can create a tailored programme for your farm that will consider treatment decisions at group and individual level.

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