



Measures to reduce the likelihood of mastitis in the CAFRE Dairy Herd, Greenmount

Housing

The cubicle house is well ventilated, but not draughty. This reduces temperature and moisture content of the air in the shed, which is important, as moisture and warmer temperatures are conducive to bacterial growth.

Scrapers operate frequently (9 times/day in winter) to reduce risk of faecal contamination of cubicles and udders.

Cubicle beds are brushed off and fresh sawdust applied at every milking, using a Bobman cubicle bedder.

Sawdust is obtained kiln dried and stored under cover to keep moisture out and minimise bacterial growth.

Parlour

There is a strict parlour milking routine for teat preparation of cows: pre-dip, strip, dry off with fresh paper towel for every cow and attach clusters, (approximately 90 seconds later).

Post dip is applied after cluster removal.

Liners are changed every 6 months.

Cows are assessed for teat end damage yearly, just before cows start to be dried off.

The milking parlour is serviced annually by qualified technicians.

Clinical Mastitis Management

A herd specific health protocol for mastitis diagnosis and treatment has been developed by the farm veterinary practice. This helps to ensure consistent practice across staff and students milking the cows and also aids in responsible use of antibiotics.

Cows with visible signs of mastitis are milked with a separate cluster into a dumpline.

Red tape is applied to back legs and the relevant parlour code is entered, so that the cow's milk cannot enter the bulk tank.

A milk sample is taken using aseptic techniques into a sterile vial, (not a milk recording vial), before any antibiotics are administered. The sample is frozen and may be sent off at a later date for bacteriology and sensitivity.

During winter housing, cows with clinical mastitis are isolated in a sick pen until recovered.

Waste milk from cows receiving antibiotics is not fed to calves.

All treatments are recorded in the Veterinary Treatment Records folder.

Milk Recording

Cows are milk recorded monthly and the information on somatic cell counts is analysed on an ongoing basis, as part of mastitis management within the herd.

See '*Analysis of somatic cell count and clinical mastitis management*' pdf for more details.