



Cattle Newsletter

February 2011

Dry Cow Therapy Options

To state the obvious, mastitis has been a real headache this season. New cases seem to hit no matter what measures are implemented. Tatura Milk Industries BMCCs have been up to 100,000 higher than the previous season. And an unusually large number of producers have dropped down a level in milk quality due to cell counts. Effective mastitis control has been difficult due to the wet spring and summer.

In our experience with mastitis problems like this, a satisfactory resolution will often not be achieved until the herd can be treated with dry cow therapy.

The opportunity to effectively treat autumn calvers in the next few weeks, at drying-off, should not be missed.

Remember, the objectives of dry cow therapy are:

- to treat existing infections picked up during lactation
- to prevent infection during the first 3 weeks of the dry period when new infection rates can be high
- to prevent new infections at calving



Here are some treatment options we recommend for different situations:

1. **Noroclox**. This is the 'entry level' Dry Cow. It is useful in cows that are to have a short dry period.
2. **Elaclox**. This is a step up from Noroclox, and we encourage using Elaclox because it is much more effective and costs very little more.
3. **Cepravin**. This is generally the best of the dry cow antibiotics for protecting cows later in the dry period and at calving. Because Cepravin is persistent, treated cows need a dry period of at least 7 weeks.
4. **Teatseal**. This is not an antibiotic and will not cure any infection present in the udder. It is however, excellent at preventing new infections during the dry period and at calving.
5. **Elaclox** (or Cepravin) plus **Teatseal**. This is the 'Rolls Royce' dry cow treatment. The Elaclox treats existing infections, and the Teatseal protects against new infections right up until calving.

Not all herds have the same mastitis issues. So we recommend some individual 'tinkering' with dry cow management. If you need advice about dry cow procedures please talk to one of our vets.