UNIVERSITEIT GENT

M-news

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STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS: ONLY TREAT SUBCLINICALLY INFECTED COWS LIKELY TO CURE

Staphylococcus aureus is one of the most important and prevalent mastitis causing pathogens in the world causing both clinical and subclinical mastitis. Intramammary infections caused by *Staphylococcus aureus* are always difficult to cure bacteriologically.

Cows with subclinical mastitis caused by *Staph. aureus* increase the bulk milk somatic cell count, are an important source of infection for herd mates, produce suboptimally, and may suffer from clinical flare-ups. Reasons enough to tackle them.

Photo: M-team UGent

Prudent use of antibiotics starts with treating only those cows **THAT ARE LIKELY TO CURE**. Cows with a **LOW PROBABILITY OF CURE** should not be treated but segregated and/or culled.

Factors influencing the probability of bacteriological cure of *Staph. aureus*-infected lactating cows are:

- LACTATION NUMBER – older cows are more difficult to cure than younger ones;
- CHRONICITY – cows with a chronic infection (≥ 3 times high somatic cell count at test-day) have a lower probability of cure than cows with a recent infection;
- NUMBER OF INFECTED QUARTERS – animals of which two or more quarters are infected are more difficult to cure than animals of which only one quarter is infected;
- QUARTER POSITION – a hind quarter is more difficult to cure than a front quarter.
- LACTATION STAGE – cows in early and mid-lactation have a lower probability of cure than cows in later lactation.

Check the estimated probability of cure of a cow with subclinical mastitis caused by *Staph. aureus* **HERE** and **DECIDE SENSIBLY *WHETHER OR NOT* TO TREAT WITH ANTIMICROBIALS.**

M-team, altijd paraat als het om uw melk gaat!

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