

**SEPTEMBER 2012**

## **10 POINTS FOR OPTIMAL HEIFER UDDER HEALTH!**

Together with colleagues from Canada, the US and New-Zealand, the *M-team* has recently published a [review paper](#) on heifer mastitis. Herein, a 10-point prevention and control program for heifer mastitis is proposed. In this *M-news*, all 10 points have been listed:



1. Keep young and primigravid heifers in a clean and hygienic environment - spend as much attention in relation to hygiene and cleanliness on this group of animals as is spent on lactating animals;
2. Implement an effective and efficient fly control system;
3. Avoid any nutritional deficiency - measure vitamin E and selenium levels when any doubt exists, especially in relation to clinical mastitis issues; likewise zinc, copper and vitamin A could play a role and could be checked;
4. Minimize the risk of negative energy balance before and after calving through appropriate transition feeding systems;
5. Reduce the incidence of udder edema through optimized peripartum management;
6. Avoid cross-suckling in calves and young stock;
7. Minimize stress around calving and minimize the incidence of dystocia and peripartum disease;
8. Improve general udder health management on farm;
9. Consider the use of internal teat sealants prepartum whenever a high risk of environmental mastitis exists;
10. Use prepartum antibiotic treatment in heifers only in case of substantial problems and under the supervision of the herd veterinarian - improve the young stock and heifer management at the same time.

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

