

**MARCH 2013**

## THE BENEFITS OF A LOWERED BULK MILK SOMATIC CELL COUNT ...

The bulk milk somatic cell count is closely related to the percentage of subclinically infected cows on a dairy herd. In case of subclinical mastitis, there are no visible abnormalities of the udder or milk. Still, the number of somatic cells in the milk is elevated. Striving for a lower bulk milk somatic cell count has a number of benefits not only for the **dairy farmer**, but for the **milk processors** and **society** as well.

In this **M-news** and the next editions, these benefits will be listed.

### FOR THE **FARMER** A LOWERED BULK MILK SOMATIC CELL COUNT SIGNIFIES:

- **Less stress and increased job satisfaction:**

In an number of countries, the majority of dairy farmers perceives stress and extra labor as the two most annoying aspects associated with mastitis.



- **Increased revenues due to:**

- *Higher milk production* – From a bulk milk somatic cell count  $\geq 200.000$  cells/ml on, milk production decreases with approximately 2,5% at the herd level with each increase of 100.000 cells/ml;
- *Less cases of clinical mastitis* – Cows with a somatic cell count  $\geq 200.000$  cells/ml are 2 to 4 times more at risk of developing clinical mastitis than cows with a somatic cell count  $< 200.000$  cells/ml; the cost per case of clinical mastitis varies from 165 to 235 € and is caused by milk production losses, a higher culling risk, increased treatment costs, discarded milk, extra labor, ...

What are you waiting for? Start lowering your bulk milk somatic cell count together with your herd health veterinarian by implementing the 10 point prevention and control program of the National Mastitis Council ([www.nmconline.org](http://www.nmconline.org))!

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

