

**MAY 2013**

## **THE BENEFITS OF A LOWERED BULK MILK SOMATIC CELL COUNT ... (2)**

Striving for a lower bulk milk somatic cell count has a number of benefits for **dairy farmers, milk processors, and society** (see *M-news* December 2012). In this edition, we list the most obvious benefits for the milk processors.

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

- **Less waste of time and money:** the higher the bulk milk somatic cell count on a dairy farm, the higher the risk for antibiotic residue violations:
  - ✓ On a dairy farm with a bulk milk somatic cell count between 250.000 and 400.000 cells/ml, the odds of antibiotic residue violation are almost one and a half times higher than on a dairy farm with a bulk milk somatic cell count  $\leq$  250.000 cells/ml.

A delivery of milk containing antibiotic residues has serious *logistic* and *economic* consequences for the milk processor.

- **Higher cheese yield:** the lower the somatic cell count, the higher the cheese yield:
  - ✓ Cheese yield per 100 ml milk after 72 hours is 38% lower for milk from quarters infected with *Streptococcus* spp. and 13% lower for milk from quarters infected with the very common *Staphylococcus* spp.;
  - ✓ Cheese firmness is also lower for cheese made from milk of infected quarters than for cheese made from milk of uninfected quarters.



What are you waiting for? Start lowering the bulk milk somatic cell count on your farm with the help of your herd health veterinarian by implementation of the [National Mastitis Council recommended mastitis control plan](#).

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

