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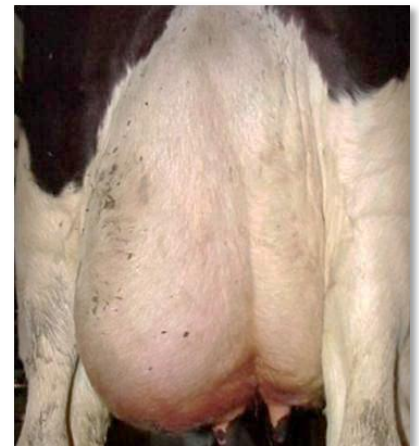
THE BENEFITS OF A LOWERED BULK MILK SOMATIC CELL COUNT ... (3)

In the previous editions of *M-news*, some benefits of a lowered bulk milk somatic cell count for the dairy farmer and the milk processors were listed (see *M-news* March 2013 and May 2013). In this edition, we will focus on a number of aspects that matter for society and that certainly provide additional reasons to strive for a better udder health in general and a lower bulk milk somatic cell count more in particular.

FOR SOCIETY A LOWERED BULK MILK SOMATIC CELL COUNT SIGNIFIES:

- **Improved animal welfare:**

Cows with a somatic cell count ≥ 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 – several studies have shown that even cows suffering from a mild clinical mastitis case experience pain.



- **Lowered antimicrobial usage:**

Antimicrobial drugs should be used in a responsible way i.e. after a proper diagnosis and taking into account that some specific products should only be used sporadically because of their importance for human medicine – broadening the focus from treatment to prevention obviously results in a lower antimicrobial drug use.

- **Less wasting of food:**

The total amount of identified milk loss in Flanders (300000 lactating dairy cows) per year is estimated at 19 million liters – almost 94% of this milk loss is due to the treatment of clinical mastitis cases and the associated withholding period.

¹ Roels K. & Van Gijsegem D. (2011).

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](#)!

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

