

**MAY 2014**

## **THE DRY PERIOD... OPPORTUNITIES FOR UDDER HEALTH (1)!**

The dry period is a crucial period for udder health in a cow's lactation cycle. On the one hand, the dry period offers opportunities: cows with (an) existing intramammary infection(s) (= cows with an elevated somatic cell count) can (spontaneously) cure. On the other hand, the dry period is also a threat: 60% of the new intramammary infections occurs during those weeks. In this and the next edition of the *M-news*, the **opportunities** and **threats** of the dry period will be reviewed.



### **THE DRY PERIOD OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES BECAUSE:**

- ... the udder is at rest which allows for spontaneous cure - without antimicrobial treatment - of existing intramammary infections;
- ... antimicrobial treatment can be applied in a *rational* way without having to discard milk which is beneficial from an economic point of view;
- ... long-acting antimicrobial products can be used in a *rational* way without having to worry about a milk withholding period;
- ... the response to an antimicrobial treatment during the dry period is much more effective than an antimicrobial treatment during lactation because:
  - ✓ much higher doses of antimicrobials can be applied;
  - ✓ the bacterial inhibitory substances are released slowly, allowing for high and long lasting concentrations in the udder tissue;
  - ✓ the cow does not suffer from a negative energy balance and the associated impaired immune status.

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

