



B.C. DAIRY TALK

Dairy Programs

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Residue Prevention Management

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Healthy cows, good communication skills and preventive management procedures significantly reduce the risk of drug residues. This article shows the many possible ways to reduce this risk. The more you apply, the greater your chances of producing drug residue free milk.

Clearly Identify All Cows (lactating and dry)

- All herd members: ear tags, neck chains, freeze brands or another equivalent.
- Treated animals: leg bands, painted flanks or legs (both sides) or another equivalent form of identification. More than one method is recommended to safeguard against loss or damage to the other.

Up-to-date Communication

Notice Board

- Place in a central, visible location in the milking area.
- List **all** treated cows (both lactating and dry): cow number, dates treated, treatment and withdrawal time.
- Maintain notice board on a **daily** basis.

Assign One Person to Treatments

- By assigning only one person, other than a veterinarian, to administer antibiotics, confusion and misunderstandings can be avoided.

Good Records

- Time, memories and promises to pass on the information to co-workers tend to slip away. Keep records of: cow identification, antibiotic given, mode of treatment, dosage given, withdrawal time (hours, days), date of treatment, date that completes the withdrawal time and a signature of person administering treatment (veterinarian included). Sample record sheet enclosed.
- Record books must be available to all farm staff.

Preventive Safeguards

Milking Techniques

- Disconnect milk hose from milk line **before** milking a treated cow.
- Withhold milk from all quarters of treated cows.
- Milk treated cows last or thoroughly rinse contaminated equipment between cows. Recommended rinse procedure: rinse all of the equipment with lukewarm water or bleach solution.

Preventive Management Choices

- Do residue tests on milk from all purchased, and treated cows before milk is allowed in the system. This includes treated dry cows.



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- Prevent early calving or short dry periods. Test milk from fresh cows before it enters the system.
- Keep feed mangers clean. (Penicillin may grow in dirty mangers.)
- Build a good working relationship with your veterinarian. Off-label drug use requires clear written instructions from your veterinarian for the designated treatment person. Prevent any misunderstandings and expensive residues later! It is doubly important to test milk from any cow that is off-label treated.
- House all treated cows separately and milk last. New research suggests urine and uterine discharge from treated cows can contaminate bedding and udders.
- Maintain a good preventive program. Better health = less drug use.
- Ensure that dry cow housing is secure and separate from milking herd.
- Use sanitizers as recommended by manufacturer. Excessive use of these products will also result in a positive residue test.

Recommended Treatment Decisions

- Follow treatment instructions and withdrawal times exactly as stated on medication labels.

- Avoid:
 - Extended or excessive dosages.
 - Off-label use without a veterinarian prescription and detailed withdrawal testing instructions.
 - Cheating on withdrawal times (using milk too soon).
 - Multiple dosing, “large one-site” injections or improper injection sites.
 - Environment or systemic contamination from other sources: medicated foot baths, topical treatments, medicated feed, etc.

Clear and Identifiable Storage

Jumbled and poorly labeled drug cabinets can result in the grabbing of the wrong treatment. A costly mistake! Avoid it by creating:

- Separate storage areas for both dry and lactating treatments.
- Storage areas and shelves that are clearly labeled (both refrigerated and non-refrigerated.)
- Storage areas that are clearly lit, clean and organized.

Residue Trivia That’s Not Trivial!

One infusion tube of penicillin (100,000 units) is enough to contaminate 20,412 kg (45,000 lbs) of milk.

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Residue Prevention Maintenance Record

RESIDUE PREVENTION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Cow #	Drug Given	Mode of Treatment*	Dosage Given	Milk Withdrawal Time (Hrs/days)	Meat Withdrawal Time (Hrs/days)	Date of Treatment (✓ am or pm)	Completed Withdrawal (✓ am or pm)	Residue Testing (+ / -)	Person Treating (Signature)
						Date: <input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm	Date: <input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm		
						Date: <input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm	Date: <input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm		
						Date: <input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm	Date: <input type="checkbox"/> am <input type="checkbox"/> pm		
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* IM = Intramuscular IMM = intramammary IU = intrauterine IV = intravenous OR = oral SQ = subcutaneous TP = topical