Thursday, March 7, 2024

Abstract Submission Form

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Preferred presentation Oral

Preferred session Session 6: SC Dairy Cattle Milk Recording – Presentation and evaluation of new analytical parameters in herd management for dairy farms

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Title of your paper A tool to identify cows eligible for Selective Dry Cow Therapy (SDCT)

Insert ABSTRACT text

Mastitis is a major problem in dairy cows, causing significant financial challenges due to treatment costs, milk losses, and premature culling of cows. Dry-off period is a considerable risk factor for mastitis onset in the subsequent lactations. Traditionally, blanket dry cow therapy (BDCT) has been recommended to reduce intramammary infection, allowing the decrease in the prevalence of contagious pathogens, and contributing to the overall decrease in bulk tank SCC.
The increasing demand for a responsible use of antimicrobics promotes an alternative approach to prevent the onset of mastitis during the dry-off named SDCT (Selective Dry Cow Therapy), based on treating individual cows upon a risk factors analysis. SDCT significantly decreases the use of antibiotics, is economically viable, and when correctly applied, does not increase the mastitis risk.
SDCT contributes to environmental sustainability and helps face antimicrobial resistance. In 2019 the European Union approved the Prohibition of Antibiotics for Prophylaxis (Reg. 2019/6), thus officially replacing BDCT with SCDT.

SDCT heavily relies on a thorough assessment of mastitis risk factors at the individual level, mainly based on somatic cell counts and more recently on Differential Somatic Cell count, both present and historical. To foster the adoption of SDCT approach in Italy, Italian Breeders Association (AIA), official DHIA, developed a tool called “Report Asciutta Selettiva” to support the farmer/veterinarian to correctly identify cows eligible for SCDT therapy.
The tool is compliant with National Veterinary Official Protocols and allows farmers\veterinarians to enter a set of parameters and thresholds to tailor the algorithms in function of specific needs and circumstances.
Settable parameters include: a) Threshold values of somatic cells for primiparous and multiparous cows; b) number of the test days before the current with SCC below the threshold. Additional information as vet diagnosis, bacteriological tests etc - when available- can be uploaded to aid in refining the list of eligible cows.
Currently more than 500 herds and 112,000 cows all trough Italy representing about the 7 % of the dairy cow under DHI are beta testing the Tool “Report asciutta selettiva”. The average SCC of herds adopting SCDT through our tool is currently 265.7684 x 10,000.

Enter keywords SDCT, mastitis, antimicrobic reduction, dairy cow, somatic cell count