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Mastitis treatment- Overview

The average cost of one clinical mastitis cow is \$277 and 1 in 5 cows with mastitis end up being culled from the herd. The best chance to cure a clinical mastitis is with the first treatment (75% cure rate). Treatment protocols should be put in place on farm so all farm staff can recognise mastitis cows and how to treat them. For example:

Mild mastitis (only changes in milk such as clots/watery). Intramammary tubes and anti-inflammatory.

Moderate mastitis (milk changes + moderate swelling, heat and painful udder). Intramammary tubes, injectable treatment and anti-inflammatory.

Severe mastitis (obviously sick cow) Intramammary tubes, injectable treatment, anti-inflammatory plus supportive treatments (veterinary attention may be needed).

Mastitis samples should be collected in a sterile manner, labelled with cow id, quarter affected and date, and stored in the freezer if not being cultured immediately. The class of antibiotics used will depend on previous farm experiences, previous mastitis culture results and preference for route of administration.