Minnesota DHIA News

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Negatives, Cures, Chronics, and Infected Oh My!

During the heat and humidity of the summer we often keep a close eye on our somatic cell counts. Your DHIA records contain great information about your herd, but where do you start? The 302 Herd summary allows you to get a snap shot of your whole herd and can pinpoint where to begin. Last year we added color to the "Changes in SCC Status" section to better highlight strengths and areas for improvement in your herd.What determines the percentages in each catagory?

Changes in SCC Status (Distribution of Cows Sampled)			
Fresh vs Last Dry Off (%)		Current vs Last Test (%)	
Cures	Chronics	Cures	Chronics
11	2	3	7
Negatives	New Infections	Negatives	New Infections
72	15	85	6

From DRMS:

Fresh vs. Last Dry Off (%) compares each cow's SCC level at the last test before dry off to her SCC level at the first test after freshening. If an SCC value is not available on the last test prior to dry off, the SCC value from the next available previous test will be used if the test date is within 75 days of the dry date. If an SCC value is not available at freshening, then the SCC value from the next available test is used if the test date is within 75 days of the fresh date.

Cures - percent of cows that were infected at dry off and not infected on first test.
Chronics - percent of cows that were infected at dry off and infected on first test.
Negatives - percent of cows that were not infected at dry off and not infected on first test.
New infections - percent of cows not infected at dry off and infected on first test.

Current vs. Last Test compares each cow's SCC value at last test to her SCC value from the current test. If a cow did not have a SCC value at last test, the SCC value from the next available previous test will be used if that test date is within 75 days of last test date.
Cures - cows that were infected last test and not infected on current test.
Chronics - cows infected both on the last test and current test.
Negatives - cows not infected on last test or current test.
New infections - cows not infected at last test but infected at current test

To dig deeper into your herds SCC there are a variety of other reports with individual cow information and group specific data. Have the conversation with your Field Representative, visit mndhia.org, or contact us at 800-827-3442.

Putting a Spotlight on First Lactation Animals

Heifers are the future of your herd; therefore, it is essential to make sure they are off to a good start. The Yearly SCC Summary section, located in the middle of your Herd Summary shows the percent of animals throughout the year that have had an SCC over 200,000. The number of samples this reflects is displayed below the Yearly SCC box. Yellow highlights will appear in "Yearly SCC Summary" if lactation one animals have a higher infection rate than any other lactation in the first 30 DIM. The highlight is designed to draw attention to when and where a problem occurs.

Yearly SCC Summary			
Lact	% Infected DIM		
	< 30	30 - 22	> 220
1	20	13	17
2	8	13	25
3+	18	21	38
All	16	15	24

Based on 4528 Samples

Advice from Mike Hutjens, University of Illinois Extension Dairy Specialist

What if your MUN levels are out of out of range?
-Too low

- Too low crude protein in ration. Supplement with more rumen degradable protein in the diet
- Sacrifice milk production and milk protein

-Too High

- If milk protein is low – add starch
- If milk protein is normal – pull little protein out

How's My Protein?

The MUN Profile can help you determine how well you are feeding protein.
Milk Urea Nitrogen (MUN) is a measure of the amount of urea in milk and indicates the adequacy or inadequacy of protein feeding. Healthy lactating Holsteins on a well-balanced diet generally have MUN results in the range of 8-12. Other breeds, particularly Jerseys and Brown Swiss, may have higher values (11.5—13.5).

- **Are cows or groups showing low average MUN values (1-7)?** Protein may be underfed. These cows generally experience reduction in milk yield since protein is a limiting nutrient.
- **Are cows or groups showing high MUN values (13-16+)?** Any excess or unused protein is converted to urea in the liver and ends up in the milk, blood and urine. Protein may be overfed which increases your feed costs and has a negative impact on reproductive efficiency. Overfeeding protein will also result in excess nitrogen being excreted by the cow.

Check the Weighed Average (Wt. Avg.) and 6-month rolling average (6 Mo. Avg.) and Average (Avg.): The 6 month average is a rolling MUN weighted average for the previous six months. If your current weighted average on the profile differs from your 6 month rolling average by 2 or more, it indicates the MUN average in your herd has changed significantly and your ration should be checked. Also, if the weighted average column (Wt. Avg.) is substantively higher than the average column (Avg.), it could indicate that many high producing cows in your herd have high MUN values.
Check the Fat-to-Protein Ratio (FPR): This is calculated by dividing the % fat by the % protein. It is summarized on the MUN Profile by lactation number, days in milk, and by pen or group in the herd if cows are identified in that manner. A high percentage of cows (5% or more) with ratios less than 1 (protein % is higher than fat %) can indicate a problem with acidosis or milk fat test depression. If this is the case, your ration should be checked.

Where can I see my MUN Results?

Condensed Report

	MUN	SCC	%POS
5	13	2.6	22
5	11	2.8	25
4	10	2.4	19
0	13	2.3	19
7	12	2.5	22
2	13	2.6	22

Flex Report

#> 200K	#SCC Tests	Prod Index	MUN	F
4	7	83	15	
	4	96	14	
4	7	83	16	
	1		10	
	1		13	

MUN Profile

by Group

	MUN Results			
	No. 1 - 7	No. 8 - 12	No. 13 - 15	No. 16 +
	2	29	57	17
	2	10	39	27
	4	39	96	44

Interested in Ear Tags?
Have Questions?
Contact Us 800-827-3442