

Data Collection

Study variables were collected in written form at various treatment locations around the farm, including the dry off area, the calving pen, and the milking parlor. Records were then transcribed into an Excel format which will be submitted for statistical analysis.

Other data gathered, but not expressly used for study findings include:

1. Daily records of individual milk production via the Afikim system.
2. Records of the course of known infection and treatment in study animals
3. Calving experience (calving ease, size, condition)
4. Expenses.

At the time of this report, we are still waiting for some study animals to calve. We anticipate having all data complete and ready to submit for analysis by the end of 2006.

Our farm veterinarian had access to all study records during his weekly herd checks, and Dr. Francis Welcome was available for consultation throughout the study via e-mail.

5. Results

Within a few weeks, all study cows should have freshened and all appropriate data collected. Study data will then be submitted to Quality Milk Production Services for statistical analysis. Brad Rauch, Manager of Contract Research will perform the analysis and his methods and findings will be fully described in the final report.

6. Conditions

The study began with the dry off of initial study cows in late March 2006 and final study participants should freshen in late November to early December 2006. This study took place in Western New York.

7. Economics

During the study, Orbeseal cost \$6.50 per single animal treatment. A single treatment with Quartermaster cost \$6.26. A treatment with both Orbeseal and Quartermaster cost \$12.76. Interestingly, during our 2004 study, Orbeseal cost \$7.60 per animal treatment and Quartermaster cost \$5.55 for a total cost of \$13.15 for treatment with both products.

8. Assessment

We have been quite pleased and encouraged with the overall low SCC counts of the herd, and we eagerly await the start of the statistical analysis of our data.

9. Outreach

No formal outreach of results has occurred yet. Local Cooperative Extension agents and the PRO-Dairy team are aware that we are participating in the study.

Plans for outreach include creation of a press release for dissemination to nine local, regional and national media outlets. Information will also be shared with the local Cooperative Extension, New York State's PRO-DAIRY Extension team, and the Northeast Dairy Producers Association. We were very excited by press coverage of our 2004 study and hope to replicate that success with this year's findings.