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We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.

St Clements Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am to 5pm Open Saturday 7am-12pm

Hwy 89 Clinic Hours: Mon-Sat 7am to 1 pm

CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service - call 519-698-2610 519-323-9002 519-699-0404 1-800-663-2941

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Holidays

Thanksgiving (Monday, Oct 14): There will be no delivery service on Thanksgiving Monday. The on-call vet will be available for emergencies. Both clinics will only be open in the mornings for pick-ups and milk residue tests.

RVT/VT Month: In October we recognize the important and valuable work of our Veterinary Technicians Brandi (RVT) and Brianna (VT). They work to professionally support the vets, the clinic, and producers on-farm. They provide their skilled services for dehorning, vaccination programs, small ruminant ultrasounding, CQM support, parasite identification, ovsynch, and more. They are a vital piece of the Linwood/Hwy 89 Veterinary Services team. Happy RVT/VT month to you both, Brandi and Brianna!

Troubleshooting Your Bactoscan

Bactoscan testing measures the number of bacteria present in bulk tank milk samples. It is one of the key ways that raw milk quality is assessed in Ontario. ProAction requirements state that acceptable Bactoscan results must be under 122,000 individual bacterial cells (IBC) per mL of milk. But what do you do when you get Bactoscan result that is too high? Troubleshooting a high Bactoscan result can be challenging, as there are many different reasons why it can occur. To help you get started, here are some questions you can ask yourself and things you can investigate if you are experiencing a high Bactoscan issue.

1. Bulk Tank Temperature

A good place to start is checking the temperature of the bulk tank. Milk should be cooled to 1-4°C (34-40°F) within 2 hours of milking if the tank is empty, and within 1 hour of milking if the tank already has milk in it. If the bulk tank temperature is higher, this can allow bacteria to multiply

quickly and result in an elevated Bactoscan.

2. **Wash Water Temperature**

Checking the temperature of your hot wash cycle is also an important troubleshooting step. Cleaning chemical solutions need specific water temperatures to be effective. When running a chlorinated alkali wash cycle, the temperature at the start of the cycle should be at least 74°C/165°F, and the temperature at the end of the cycle should be at least 49°C/120°F. It's a good idea to monitor your wash water temperature at least once a month, especially if you don't have a TTR (Time Temperature Recorder) that measures the temperature for you automatically. It's also important to consider *when* you are running the hot wash cycle. If you run it right after running a pipeline wash, do you still have enough hot water to run the tank wash at the appropriate temperature? What about in the winter, when the water must run through cold pipes? Is it still reaching a hot enough temperature to effectively clean the tank? Consider how environmental factors may be impacting your wash.

3. **Condition of Equipment**

An important but often overlooked piece of the puzzle when experiencing a high Bactoscan count is the condition of your equipment. This includes anything that comes in contact with the raw milk – milking claws, pipelines, hoses, buckets, etc. If there are any surfaces with cracks, leaks, biofilms, or build-ups of milk residue, this can create an environment where bacteria can live and grow. All equipment should be inspected at least once a week, ideally when dry. This way, you can catch anything that needs to be repaired/replaced before it can become an issue. You can also work with your equipment dealer if you are experiencing tank cleaning failures, and they can help you troubleshoot and inspect your equipment to try to determine the root cause.

4. **Wash Analysis**

If you have done the above steps and are still struggling with high Bactoscan results, contacting your equipment dealer and performing a wash analysis is a good next step. Observing a complete wash cycle and ensuring that the correct amounts of chemicals are being dispensed, the temperatures are correct, and that everything is working as it should can be a crucial step in finding the root cause of the issue.

5. **Milking routine**

Finally, you can evaluate your milking routine and the cows themselves. Having a good milking protocol, where the teats are stripped, cleaned, pre- and post-dipped, and clean/new towels are used for each cow, can make a big difference in mastitis prevention, which can contribute to a high Bactoscan issue. If you are experiencing a high incidence of mastitis in your herd, your herd veterinarian would be happy to work with you to determine the cause and develop a plan of action.

High Bactoscan counts can be a frustrating issue to deal with. However, don't forget that you have a team of people that can help you! Whether it's your herd veterinarian, your equipment dealer, or other producers, involving the people around you can give you new insight into what the issue may be. Hopefully these steps are a helpful starting point in the meantime!