



117 Tools & Checklists

Responsible Use of Antimicrobials in Dry Cow Management - A Guide

by RUMA

In **Significant Impact Groups:**

Prudent use AB \ Farmer

Species targeted: Dairy;

Age:

Summary:

Infection status is a key factor to consider when deciding on your treatment thresholds for selective dry cow therapy. An elevated somatic cell count (>200,000 cells per ml) is considered an infection and more than one SCC should be used to determine infection status. Using SCC as a guide along with examination of the udder/teats for any abnormal changes should give an indicator of infection status. For practical purposes, cows should have had no recent clinical cases of mastitis (i.e. in the last lactation) and the last 3 somatic cell counts for that lactation should have been <200,000 cells per ml if internal teat sealant is to be used alone. Other recognised tests for the detection of subclinical mastitis may also be used e.g. conductivity. Finally, whatever product is used at drying off, an aseptic technique is essential.

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Where to find the original material:

[https://www.ruma.org.uk/cattle/responsible-use-of-antimicrobials-in-dry-cow-management/;](https://www.ruma.org.uk/cattle/responsible-use-of-antimicrobials-in-dry-cow-management/)

Country: United Kingdom;