

November 7, 2008

DRY COW HANDLING

At Dry - Off Time: Cows are dried off once a week based on an 8 week dry period, production level in the low thirties, a body condition score greater than 3.75, or a date due - production level combination. Dry-off is accomplished by the abrupt cessation of milking. At time of dry-off, cows are CMT (California Mastitis Test) prior to being dried off and the results are recorded in their file. **TOMORROW** is the veterinary recommended treatment and teats are dipped with an iodine dip.

See vaccination protocol for the various injections given during the dry period.
Check with researcher if vaccination protocols are to be altered.

At All Times During Dry Period: Cows are monitored closely by staff after dry off for quarter flare-ups and during the dry period for any health problems.

Dry Cow Feeding: Dry cows are typically on a research project and as a result, their ration can vary throughout the year. Based on positive research results conducted at Penn State, dry cows receive one ration during the dry period. Rations may differ on the basis of whether one group gets an additive versus the other group. No supplemental hay is offered so as not to alter the recommended dry matter intake of the total mixed ration.

Dry cows and bred heifers will NOT receive BST unless it is specified for a research project.

Note: All shots will be given either in front of the shoulder, in the tail head, or rear leg next to the udder.

J5 is a subcutaneous injection. It is given in the tail head depression on the recommendation of the herd vet.

Scour Guard is an intramuscular injection. The preferred location is in the muscles of the neck, midway between the jaw and shoulder, and midway between the jawline and throat. The needle should be inserted perpendicular to the skin. No more than 10 cc. of medicine should be given at one injection site.