

# Dairy Research Symposium 2018

## THE COSTS OF MASTITIS AND EMERGING STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTION

Simon Dufour, Herman Barkema, Steven Roche



### Workshop Overview

This workshop showcases results from the Dairy Farmers of Canada Cluster 2 research projects focused on mastitis. In this workshop, Drs. Simon Dufour, Herman Barkema and Steven Roche will discuss recent results on the costs of mastitis, issues related to antibiotic resistance and use, emerging strategies for prevention, and review resources available to Canadian producers.

#### TAKEAWAY MESSAGES:

##### Mastitis is costly from a variety of perspectives

Mastitis is costly, but where and how do costs accrue? Subclinical and clinical cases of mastitis, milk quality penalties, and treatment and prevention costs are all important factors.

Research under the Cluster 2 funding has shown that for the average Canadian dairy herd, each case of mastitis costs \$744. When we explore further, the research shows that subclinical mastitis costs \$349/cow-year, while clinical mastitis costs \$199/cow-year. To mitigate these costs, we must adopt and implement practical prevention strategies and make timely decisions when mastitis cases are identified.

##### Now what?

There are over 11 new research projects being conducted across Canada to identify new prevention strategies to help Canadian dairy farmers reduce costs and maintain healthy, productive cows.

##### We must reduce our use of antimicrobials

Antibiotic resistance impacts our ability to treat humans and animals effectively during times of illness. Over 80% of the most important antimicrobial drugs are intended for use in production animals - so livestock production plays a big role here and in dairy, these drugs are often used for treatment of mastitis and dry cow treatment.

Research under the Cluster 2 funding has shown that there is a significant reduction in antibiotic resistance in humans when the use of antibiotics in animals is reduced. In the case of mastitis, this means moving away from blanket dry cow treatment and going towards selective dry cow therapies, which means only treating those that are infected, preventing infections in the dry period, and selectively using antibiotics to treat clinical cases.

##### Now what?

New research aims to develop practical approaches to help identify if your herd is suitable for selective dry cow treatments, how to identify the best cows to treat, and how this will impact antimicrobial resistance in the future.



### A new mobile application for managing udder health

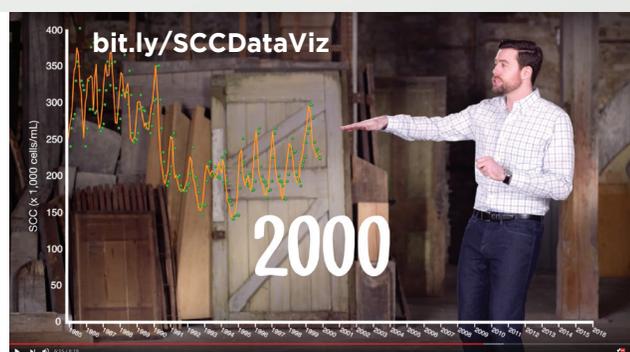
The mobile application, LacT Santé du pis, allows easy access to your herd and cow data. Simple herd management at your fingertips! Easy consultation and data entry for clinical mastitis cases, milk culture results, treatment suggestions, selective dry off treatments based on protocols recommended by your herd veterinarian.



### Bringing Udder Health & Milk Quality to Life

New video resources are helping tell producers, veterinarians, and consumers about the Canadian dairy industry. Check out this new video on YouTube: [bit.ly/SCCDataViz](https://bit.ly/SCCDataViz)

By measuring the number of cells in 1 millilitre of milk, we can tell how healthy a cow is, and the overall quality of the milk. Watch as Dr. Steven Roche walks you through an animated story about how the dairy industry evaluates udder health and milk quality.



### MORE INFORMATION

Please visit the following websites for more information:

Canadian Dairy Research Portal  
[dairyresearch.ca](http://dairyresearch.ca)

Canadian Bovine Mastitis and Milk Quality Research Network (CBMQRN)  
[mastitisnetwork.org](http://mastitisnetwork.org)