Hospital Lists Treat Cows Correctly

Make treatment protocols specific to the cow for most success

By Dr. Frank Welcome and Jack VanAlmelo

A strong dairy herd hospital program is built on clearly defined diagnosis protocols that correspond with specific treatment protocols. The final ingredient is a good daily hospital list in the hands of staff trained at following the protocols. When it all comes together well, animals are treated appropriately even if key staff takes a day off.

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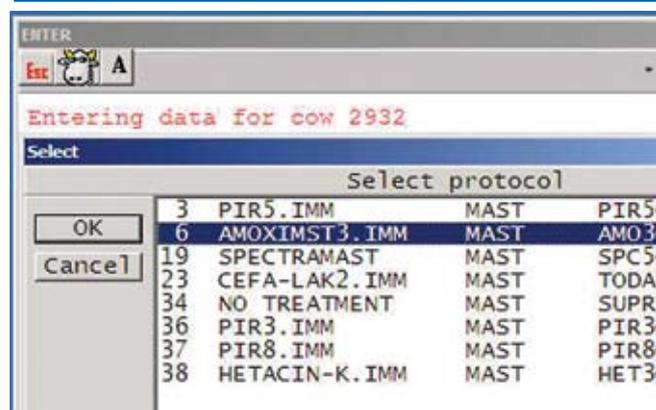
Dairy Comp 305 has integrated protocol and hospital list routines that track milk and beef withholding dates, last treatment dates and even follow up "check" dates. All the dairy must add are the protocols and a commitment to follow them.

A sample hospital list, like the one below, prints automatically every morning. It includes every animal in the hospital pen as well as cows due for a follow-up check (CKDAT) today. Cow 58 in pen 5 was blocked on her left hind quarter and is on the list for a two-week check. Cow 2932 is on day 1 of 3 of an AMO3 protocol for her left hind quarter. Her OK to beef date (BFDAT) is Feb. 17, milk withholding date (MKDAT) is Feb.8. Her last treatment date (LTDAT) on this protocol will be Feb. 6.

When multiple protocols are active for an animal they are all listed. Cow 2989 has started a mastitis protocol and also a culture protocol. A milk culture sample was sent to the lab for an aerobic culture from the left hind teat. When the results are available they will automatically download into this

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farm's cow records. When we report a mastitis or any disease event for an animal, a list of all of the protocols defined by the farm and its veterinarian appears. Each of the protocols listed above would also have a corresponding page in the farm's protocol book that spells out the details of how to administer the treatment.

Assigning a cow to the most appropriate treatment protocol requires some additional information. The first consideration may be the severity of infection. Several diagnostic protocols allow a hospital pen manager to classify a case of mastitis as mild, moderate or severe.

The other impor-

Hospital (and check) List

ID	CKDAT	DIM	PPEN	PEN	REM	BFDAT	MKDAT	LTDAT	NOTE		ID
58	2/ 2/06	180	5	5	BLK2WKLH	8/18	-	-	_____		58
2390	-	150	2	10	SPC5LH	9/ 7	2/ 6	2/ 2	_____		2392 5:5
								1/29	MAST	SPC5LH	
2932	-	222	5	10	AMO3LH	2/17	2/ 8	2/ 6	_____		2932 1:3
								2/ 2	MAST AMO3LH		
2989	-	133	5	10	PIR5LH	2/16	2/ 9	2/ 6	_____		2989 1:5
								2/ 2	MAST	PIR5LH	1:3
								2/ 2	CULTURE LABA/LH		