Managing Risk on Your Farm: Dairy One Can Help

Farms deal with risk on a daily basis. The most successful farms recognize risks early and take steps to manage them. The Agricultural Management Resources (AMR) group at Dairy One offers many tools and services, including herd management software, farm computer systems, and the TankWatch program, to help identify and mitigate the risks at your farm.
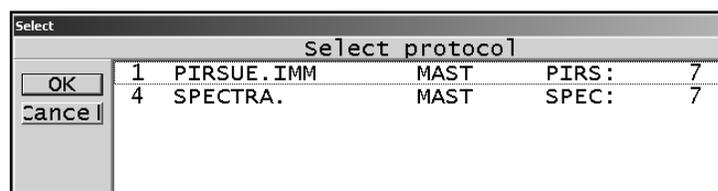
Using Protocols and Hospital Lists in Dairy Comp 305 to Manage Hospital Cows

The protocol feature and accompanying hospital list in Dairy Comp 305 significantly minimize the risks associated with treating diseases. Together with written protocols, they make it simple to assign the proper treatment to the correct animal and ensure that the proper regimen is followed.

Treating cows is a high-risk endeavor for dairy farms. The greatest risk is that you might not treat the cows as intended by your treatment protocol. When multiple people are involved, it can be difficult to maintain a treatment regimen without a management system in place. A related risk is that you have to correctly manage the treatment withdrawal period of non-saleable milk and meat. Accurately predicting and adhering to the withdrawal period requires a successful management system. The protocol feature in Dairy Comp 305 is a built-in tool that can help you successfully reduce and manage both of these risks.

Developing written treatment protocols is the first step in successfully implementing protocols in Dairy Comp 305. Begin by sitting down with your veterinarian and deciding what diseases you will treat at your farm, as well as how you will diagnose and treat the diseases. It is very important to get everyone involved to commit to following the written protocols. Taking the time to work through all of the 'what if' scenarios ahead of time will go a long way toward ensuring compliance in the future.

Write the protocols down and keep them where everyone involved with treating the cows can use them. Ask your veterinarian for help with actually writing the protocols. Chances are they have done this before, and may even have templates that you can use to streamline the process.

Figure 1: Picklist for Mastitis

The next step is to set up protocols in Dairy Comp 305 to make data entry easy and consistent. Protocols are assigned to each disease that you treat, and include information about the product used, the quarter or limb treated, the duration of the treatment, and how the treatment was administered (intermammary, intermuscular, etc.). A picklist of approved treatments available makes setting this up easy. In many cases, the pen number for the hospital pen is all that has to be entered. The result is a simple picklist that appears when you enter a disease. The example in Figure 1 is a common picklist for mastitis entry.

However, getting the correct diagnosis and treatment into Dairy Comp is only half the battle. Next, the treatment must be administered to the correct animal, at the proper dosage, for the correct duration. The hospital list from Dairy Comp makes this simple by showing you which cows need treatment, what their treatment regimen is, and when they can be sampled for antibiotic residue.

In the list shown in Figure 2, cow 7531 is being treated for mastitis. The PIR indicates the product being used; the 3 indicates the duration of the treatment;

the LF indicates the quarter treated; and the final number indicates the severity of the disease. The 3:3 indicates that this is day three of a three-day treatment. There are also columns that indicated the milk withhold date (MKDAT), the beef withhold date (BFDAT), the last day to treat (LTDAT), and finally, the pen that the cow should return to after treatment (PN). The hospital list can be set to print automatically every day so it is readily available.

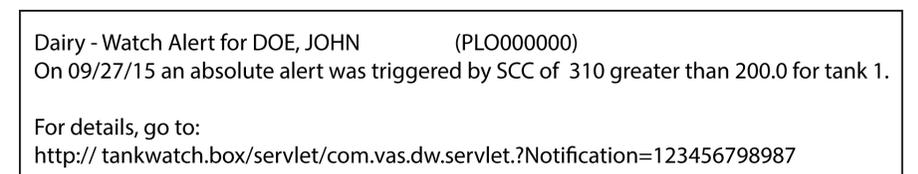| ID	DIM	MKDAT	BFDAT	LTDAT	PN	ID	REM			
							HOSP LIST			
6957	253	6/10	6/ 9	6/ 6	4	6957				
							6/ 2	MAST	SP5:LF.1	3:5
7046	10	6/ 8	6/12	6/ 5	2	7046				
							6/ 1	DA	POLYFLEX	4:5
7515	128	12/10	11/26	6/ 5	4	7515				
							6/ 3	MAST	NOTREAT	2:3
7531	49	5/31	5/30	6/ 4	3	7531				
							6/ 2	MAST	PIR3.LF2	3:3
7939	291	6/ 9	6/15	6/ 6	8	7939				
							6/ 2	PNEU	PLY5.25	3:5

Figure 2: Hospital List

Your Computer Stopped Working! Are you prepared?

Nearly every farm uses a computer to manage information for their business. Key areas such as finance, payroll, cow records, agronomy, personnel, and maintenance rely on computers and software to help manage day-to-day tasks at the farm. Your data and this valuable tool are at risk every day. A hard disk crash, a virus, or a simple user error can spell disaster for your data. The risk associated with losing some or all of your data is staggering. Time spent rebuilding data, opportunity lost due to not being able to complete tasks efficiently, and the money spent on emergency service from vendors to rebuild can add up to thousands of dollars very rapidly. The solution to managing this risk is simple: make comprehensive backups and have an action plan in place for when key computers fail.

With a Dairy One backup system and expert service, your risk of loss due to computer failure is significantly lowered. The AMR group at Dairy One sells and installs backup systems that will minimize your risk of data loss and make getting back up and running a snap. Our backup systems make a complete backup of every computer on your farm every day. From these backups, it is possible to restore an entire computer very quickly, meaning that you will not lose data. One call to the AMR group and our team will have you back in operation in the shortest time possible.

Where Did My Quality Premiums Go?

Milk quality premiums are a significant revenue stream for dairy farms. Earning or losing one step in your premium program can mean thousands of dollars per month in revenue. Every farm will have a milk quality issue at some point in time. The key to managing this risk is to find problems quickly and respond appropriately.

Dairy - Watch Alert for DOE, JOHN   (PLO000000)
On 09/27/15 an absolute alert was triggered by SCC of 310 greater than 200.0 for tank 1.

For details, go to:
http:// tankwatch.box/servlet/com.vas.dw.servlet.?Notification=123456798987

Figure 3: TankWatch alert

TankWatch provides peace of mind, knowing that your milk quality is being monitored without tying up critical management time. TankWatch performs the daily task of checking on bulk tank quality for you and sends an e-mail or text

alert when there is a quality issue. The alert includes the date, tank number, and a link to look at all of the quality data leading up to the alert. Figure 3 shows an example alert for a bulk tank Somatic Cell Count that was above desired levels.

The alerts in TankWatch are customizable and can be sent to different people based on which event is triggered. For instance, if an alert is triggered by a large change in components, you may choose to send that alert to yourself and your nutritionist.

TankWatch can also be automatically downloaded into your copy of Dairy Comp 305. This feature allows Dairy Comp to automatically download your bulk tank information so it is available to all staff members without having to log on to your milk marketing website. It also includes the mean, or average, for each of the key milk quality measures and components. Figure 4 shows an example of the report that is available in Dairy Comp.

PUDATE	CWT	SCC	BF	Prot	SNF	SPC_100X	SPC	LPC	COLI	PI	TankID	MUN
Means		160	3.99	3.18	8.94	44	4		44	8		10.90
9/21/15		170	4.40	3.29	9.07						5	8.30
9/21/15	657	140	3.92	3.20	8.97						1	9.90
9/20/15		160	4.40	3.27	9	30	3				5	9.80
9/20/15	672	130	3.96	3.20	8.94	30	3				1	9.80
9/19/15		220	4.38	3.25	8.98						5	10.30
9/19/15	659	180	4.02	3.20	8.96						1	10.60
9/18/15		160	4.32	3.25	8.98	20	2			2	1	11.80
9/18/15	670	150	3.97	3.19	8.94	20	2			2	1	11.70

Figure 4: TankWatch Report in Dairy Comp

The Agricultural Management Resources (AMR) group at Dairy One is dedicated to helping farms manage information and mitigate risk. Dairy Comp 305, computer systems, and TankWatch are just a few of the many services and products we offer to help you better manage your farm. More information can be found on our website at www.dairyone.com, or if you would like to speak to us to learn more, please call the AMR group at 800-344-2697 extension 3 for further information.