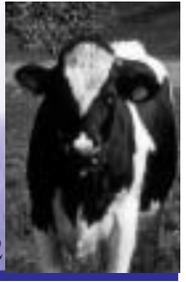




White Oak Mills

Dairy News Leaf

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White Oak Launches New Website

White Oak Mills is pleased to announce the launch of its new website:

www.whiteoakmills.com

This new site offers information on the Company's various products and services, custom feed options, dairy news, dairy team information, weekend and after-hours contact information, feed delivery information as well as links to other informative dairy and industry websites.

On the Dairy pages, we've designed the site so that you can easily navigate and search for information on White Oak's milk cow feeds, dry cow feeds, milk



replacers, calf and heifer feeds, specialty products, and more. Our navigational controls are on the lefthand side of each page or by species at the bottom of each page.

The new website allows you to sign up online to receive our *Dairy News Leaf* or to read a previous newsletter issue.

Scroll over the map at the bottom of our Dairy Team page and find the phone number of a White Oak Dairy Specialist in your area ... or "Contact Us" using the new online contact form to ask us a question.

Finally, we have a lot of dairy and industry sites included on our Links page, so bookmark our website and stay up-to-date with the latest industry information.



Managing Milk Quality

By J.C. Hammond

White Oak Mills Dairy Specialist

Milk quality pays. Co-ops will eventually begin increasing milk quality standards. In fact, 750,000 might not be your co-op's limit anymore. Producers need to remain cognizant of where their current somatic cell count is and where they are going. It is important that we monitor SCC at all stages of lactation ... not just the bulk tank average.

What factors might lead to elevated SCC?

- * cleanliness
- * milking routine
- * faulty equipment
- * toxins in feed / feed program
- * dry period

Cleanliness

Many high SCC issues are directly related to cleanliness. All too often when asked about lowering SCC, I observe cows lying in dirty stalls. This is where we need to start. If you yourself are unwilling to lie down in a stall, then it is too dirty. In free stall settings, be sure to rake manure out of the stalls each milking and scrape the alleys often.

If you notice manure splatter on teats, identify areas in the barn and alleys where manure builds up and clean these areas more frequently.

Milking Routine & Equipment

Have your system serviced and inspected at least biannually to

ensure that not only the vacuum level is OK, but also the teat end vacuum. In addition, indicate on a calendar when you will need to change inflations as per manufacturers' specs. This may sound simple enough, but most people do not monitor inflation age. If inflations are worn and old, they will not open and close properly, leading to over- or under-milking.

Feed Program

How is your feeding program? If you have ruled out cleanliness and milking routine issues for higher SCC, consider evaluating feed toxins. Some toxins can lower a cow's immunity to the point that she cannot fight environmental bacteria as well as she should.

White Oak Mills consistently tests its key ingredients for toxins, and while our testing on local new crop corn and wheat indicate very minimal vomatoxin levels this year, please talk with your nutritionist

about increasing toxin binders in your feed if needed. Also, consider increasing Vitamin E levels to 1600 IU or above. Vitamin E is a natural antioxidant and aids in immunity.

When assessing farms, I like to first test SCC. It serves as a good indicator of how well the dry cow therapy is working as well as the cleanliness factors in the dry period. After analysis of the first test SCC, monitor at different lactation stages. Is there one area that is higher than the others? Could it be related to different groupings or diet changes?

Above all, it is important to set up protocols that work for your dairy and management style. Ask your White Oak Dairy Specialist how we can help set up farm level goals that work for you. Also, allow us to monitor your DHIA reports to analyze any bottlenecks in your operation. 

Corn, Soybean and Barley Grain Exchange Available

White Oak Mills offers all dairy producers buying feeds from White Oak Mills the opportunity to grain exchange corn, soybeans and barley. There is no quantity limit and no storage charge for using your corn, soybeans and/or barley in your feeds manufactured by White Oak, and White Oak Mills works with several grain receiving locations to best serve you.

Producers using White Oak's grain exchange program shall specify to the appropriate receiver that the grain is for White Oak Mills and, upon storage, forward to White Oak Mills your weight tickets and pertinent information.

For more information or for a copy of White Oak's grain exchange program, including receiving locations, contact our Customer Service department toll-free 800.468.5524 or email us at info@whiteoakmills.com. 



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