**Suggested Protocols: Herd Level Management**

For dry cow and transition periods:
- Check 12 cows within the first two weeks of freshening. If 2 or more cows are positive, consult with your veterinarian and/or nutritionist to evaluate herd management practices during the dry cow and transition periods.

Some factors that can affect the incidence of ketosis are feed bunk space, overcrowding, heat stress, transition diets, etc.

For herd health and nutrition management:
- Check 12 cows in each feeding group quarterly. If 2 or more cows test positive, consult with your nutritionist to evaluate herd feed rations.

**Prevent Subclinical Ketosis**

- Feed cows according to their nutritional needs.
- Good nutrition and excellent cow management can achieve the largest gains in ketosis risk prevention.
- Establish a subclinical ketosis monitoring program for your herd.

**Monitor Subclinical Ketosis in Dairy Cows**

- Simple, on-farm test to screen for BHB levels
- Uses milk, not urine
- Affordable and convenient
- Field tested, proven worldwide

**Test for Subclinical Ketosis**

- Each vial contains 25 test strips.

**Intended Use:**
This test is intended solely as an on-farm screening test. Consult a veterinarian before starting any treatment.

**On-farm Testing Solutions**

For herd health and nutrition management:
- Check 12 cows in each feeding group quarterly. If 2 or more cows test positive, consult with your nutritionist to evaluate herd feed rations.

**PortaCheck, Inc.**
1 Whittendale Drive, Suite E
Moorestown, NJ 08057
856.231.8894
www.portacheck.com
What is Subclinical Ketosis?

Ketosis in dairy cows occurs as a result of negative energy balance, a condition most common during the early postpartum period. During this time, milk production is increasing dramatically, while energy intake may not be adequate to sustain the higher production level. When this happens, cows metabolize body fat to meet their energy needs, resulting in increased production of ketones, a condition known as subclinical ketosis.

The subclinical condition is much more common than clinical ketosis and has been associated with significant economic loss. It is estimated that the incidence of subclinical ketosis during the first three weeks of lactation averages 30% in most herds, yet its economic impact is significant because it affects milk production, fertility, displaced abomasum, and mastitis.

Why Test for Subclinical Ketosis?

- Monitoring for subclinical ketosis in individual cows provides a means of early detection and treatment.
- Monitoring at the herd level can help producers identify problems and make appropriate management decisions to correct nutritional and other ketosis-related issues.
- Monitoring for subclinical ketosis in individual cows provides a means of early detection and treatment.

How can you test for Subclinical Ketosis?

- Ketones can be monitored in blood, milk, or urine.
- The gold standard for detecting subclinical ketosis is to test for BHB in serum (lab test).
- Some on-farm tests measure BHB in milk instead of blood.
- Most ketosis powders and urine dipsticks change color in the presence of other ketones, not BHB.

Items to consider

- Mastitic cows and/or cows with high SCC (>1,000,000) may exhibit higher BHB levels.
- Abnormal milk (bloody) may also increase test results.
- Increased production of ketosis is related to milk production, not just energy balance.
- The percentage of cows affected during the first three weeks of lactation is between 20% and 40% in most herds.

Suggested Protocols:

Individual Cow Management

- Test all fresh cows at 2 to 14 days in milk when the incidence of subclinical ketosis is high.
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Recommended Protocols:

- Test all fresh cows once a week during the first two weeks of lactation to identify approximately 95% of subclinical ketosis cases.
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Protocol for problem herds:

- Test all fresh cows weekly for the first six weeks of lactation in herds experiencing an abnormal incidence of ketosis.
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- Test all fresh cows weekly for the first six weeks of lactation in herds experiencing an abnormal incidence of ketosis.

Did you know?

- Ketosis causes 506 lbs milk loss per affected cow.
- Each case costs approximately $150.
- Ketosis increases the risk of displaced abomasum.
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- Ketosis increases the risk of displaced abomasum.

Source: Guard, Cornell University