

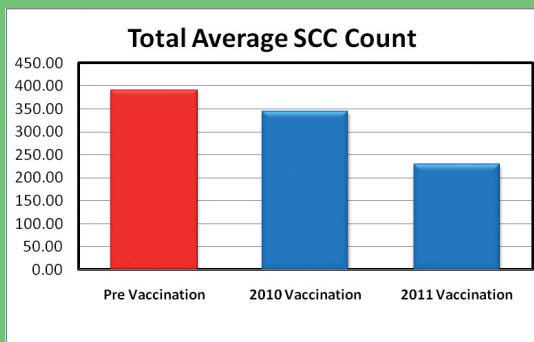
Vaccinate Against Mastitis- Yes You Can!

Independently selected farmers have been participating in unique Irish Trials to illustrate how effective a herd vaccination programme can be in preventing and curing mastitis.

Information available from ICBF records, as well as farm records was subjected to critical analysis by the Economics Department in University College Cork. The results emerging are very positive and support the product claims made by the manufacturer HIPRA Pharmaceuticals.

Sizeable Reduction in Somatic Cell Count

Graph (A) illustrates how the average SCC has fallen steadily from 400,000 to down to just over 200,000. The reduction in SCC has resulted in the farmers earning increased bonuses and avoiding costly penalties.



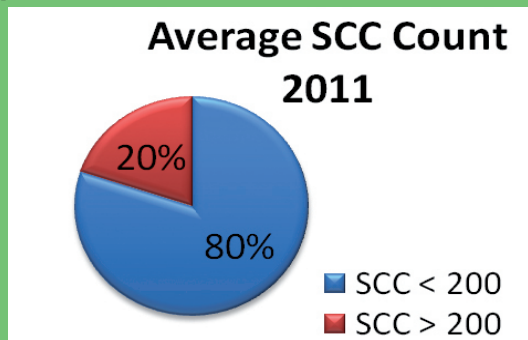
Graphy A: Source: Economic Department, University College Cork (UCC)

Reduction in Subclinical cases of Mastitis:

When the vaccination programmes commenced only 38 % of the animals recorded a SCC level of below 200,000. Currently in 2011, 80% of the vaccinated animals now present with a SCC of below 200,000.

Graphs (B) shows the reduction in animals with a SCC of less than 200,000.

Graph (B) Illustrating the decrease in infected animals post vaccination

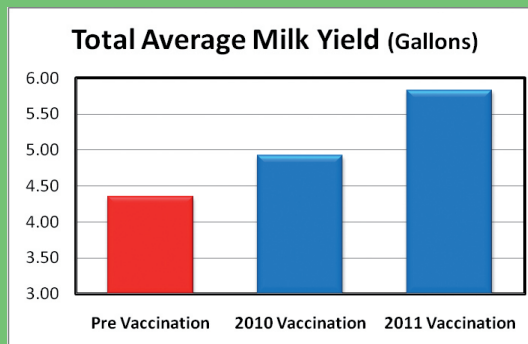


Graph B: Source: Economic Department, University College Cork (UCC)

Milk Yield Increase

With the reduction in SCC, and an increase in healthy animals, a noticeable increase in the average milk yield of each animal was recorded. There has been a steady increase average milk yield across the study herd from just over 4 gallons to 6 gallons per cow as shown in Graph (C).

Graph (C):Showing the increase in milk yield since 2009



Graph C: Source: Economic Department, University College Cork (UCC)

Culling

Culling remains a very important part of the herd health plan to combat mastitis. Chronically infected cows are likely to be a source of bacteria and provide a bacterial challenge to the healthy cows in the herd. The number of animals that needed to be culled as a result of mastitis issues noticeably reduced on each farm based on farm records.

Financial Benefits

On the study farms, the noticeable reduction in veterinary bills along with less severe medicine bills in treating infected cows was welcomed as a consequence of having healthier cows. Based on this data the reduction of the average herd SCC of the trial group to 229,410 (41% decrease) delivered a significant increase in the nett farm profit.

In summary the results show:

1. The proportion of infected animals reduced by 42%
2. The average somatic cell count was also shown to have decreased by 41%.
3. Arising from the lower somatic cell count, the average yield of each animal had increased significantly.
4. The culling of animals due to mastitis problems noticeably decreased on each farm

Conclusion:

It is very important when deciding to **START VACC**inating that a correct programme is put in place to ensure increased cover around the period of highest incidence of mastitis. A farmer should consult with his vet when looking to decide how best to integrate a vaccination programme into their herd health plan and begin to **START VACC**inating.

Over the coming weeks in the Farmers Journal, a complete review of the farms contained in the studies will be undertaken. A full overview of the vaccination programmes adopted on each farm, the pathogen profiles of each farm, and details of how records were kept throughout the vaccination programme. For more information on how to **START VACC**inating contact your local Veterinary Surgeon or visit www.preventmatistis.ie