



OCTOBER 2023 DAIRY NEWSLETTER

Welcome Winter!

As the weather changes, it's a good time to talk about temperature dynamics and how it applies to injectable products. Of course, with CQM everyone is keeping their products stored at the appropriate temperature (every room is room temperature, right?) but there are products that are simply more difficult to use. With the move to more subcutaneously (SQ) dosed products, it is a good idea to have some larger bore and shorter length needles to accomplish proper administration. Fourteen (14g) gauge and 5/8's to 3/4" needles make injecting more viscous SQ materials easier. If 14g is too large for your liking, then a 16g will also work for increasing speed of delivery. The triangle created by the nuchal ligament, the shoulder and the vertebral column is the preferred site for subQ and for deep intramuscular (IM) injection. When aiming for IM deposit of product, a 1-1.5" needle should be used, especially for larger, thicker animals. Injecting any volume or tissue irritating product in the rear leg or hip should be avoided when possible. In the leg, it is not for lack of efficacy, it is for preventing a worst-case scenario. An injection site lesion, abscess/bruise/reaction in the leg makes for a cow with poorer locomotion. This lesion is then aggravated when she indexes in most milking systems. An injection in the hip does stand to have reduced efficacy as there is a higher percentage of ligament and fat there vs strait muscle.

We do accept an exception for leg injections when using hormones as it does provide an easy, safe way to inject (with a bit of a tail jack!) and we can ensure we are getting into the muscle. There are two long strap muscles there on the inside and the outside of the leg that are easy to identify. Injecting from inside or outside of the leg with a 1.5" needle will help support the best response to the hormone you are using.

Two very important points,

1. New sharp needle for each injection
2. Avoid the space between these two muscles so not injecting into the connective tissue.

One more important point that does involve temperature for bottle mount syringes is that the rubber stopper is not always as tight in the mouth of the bottle. It is recommended to pierce the middle of the rubber stopper with a clean needle. This will help the plastic spear go through without pushing the stopper into the upside down bottle.

Dry Cows

What level of milk are you aiming for to dry off a cow? The National Mastitis Council currently recommends 15L a day or less. There are many incredible cows still at 45L and 220 days carried calf out there in barns today! There are some very effective ways to reduce milk towards the end of lactation and a couple are actually supported by research. A pen move and a ration change are the most consistent across lactations, breeds and production levels. Reducing water is very effective but very hard to support from a humane husbandry standpoint. For robot producers dropping grain in robot completely, dropping visits to 1.3/day or 20L expected yield will usually have them dried down with 5-7 days. Some new barn constructions are including 'dry off pens' for batch drying that makes it easier to have a good, proper dry off.

Ask your herd veterinarian about what is new with selective dry cow programs and internal teat sealants, there may be some benefits to reviewing your current program.



Check out our website for access to all previous newsletters!