



SELECTIVE
DryCow
 TOOL

Using the Selective Dry Cow Tool

Selective Dry Cow Therapy (SDCT) aims to reduce the unnecessary use of antibiotics by using them **only** in those cows with evidence of infection at drying off. There are several pieces of information needed to make these decisions and the involvement of your vet is essential.

For effective SDCT, we need evidence at the **herd level** and at the **individual cow level**.

The Selective Dry Cow Tool is designed to help assess mastitis management and guide the decision making on SDCT at the herd level. It brings together data on Bulk Milk Somatic Cell Count (BMSCC), Individual Cow Somatic Cell Count (ICSCC) and clinical mastitis records.

This tool is a useful aid for both farmers and vets when discussing SDCT at a herd level. It's the starting point for active mastitis management and continuous monitoring of the herd. The tool, which can be accessed anytime, is constantly updated with your latest SCC data.

Looking at ICSCC and other individual cow data e.g. Mastitis incidences or Johne's status, is easily done through iReports in Herd Companion or InterHerd+.



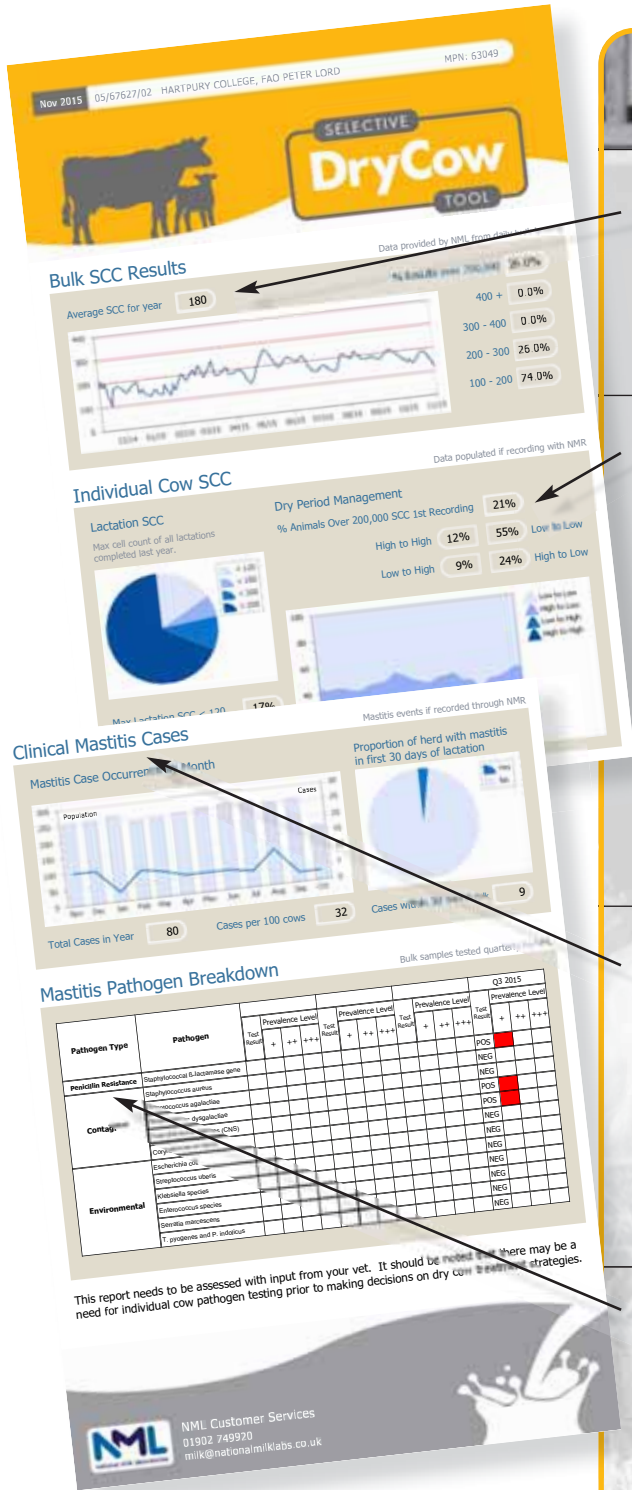
Accessing the Tool

The Selective Dry Cow Tool can be accessed by farmers and vets through NMR's Herd Companion login page www.herdcompanion.co.uk

- 1 Login using your herd login details. Or use the 'demo' login to view an example.
- 2 Select 'Milk Quality Manager' to access your milk quality results.
- 3 Click on the Selective Dry Cow Tool icon to open the report.
- 4 The tool can be viewed on screen or printed.

This report needs to be assessed with input from your vet. It should be noted that there may be a need for individual cow pathogen testing prior to making decisions on dry cow treatment strategies.

What does the Selective Dry Cow Tool show me?



Herd level information	Questions this tool can help answer	Who can view this?
Bulk milk somatic cell count (BMSCC)	What is the rolling 12 month average? Is the trend changing? Are there unexpected spikes or seasonal changes?	All farms can view their BMSCC results on the Selective Dry Cow Tool.
Dry period management	What proportion of the herd has a recorded cell count < 200? What is the dry period cure rate? What proportion of cows are going from a high cell count at the end of one lactation to a low cell count at the start of the next lactation? What proportion are going from low to high?	All farms that use NMR core recording services will be able to view this data.
Mastitis incidence	What is the clinical mastitis case rate? Is there a seasonal pattern? How many cases have occurred in the first 30 days of lactation indicating an infection picked up in the dry period?	All farms that use NMR core recording services will be able to view this data. It is essential that clinical cases of mastitis are accurately recorded on farm.
Pathogen Challenge	What bacteria are being found in routine samples from the bulk tank? Is penicillin resistance (β lactamase) present?	All farms that request quarterly testing of a bulk milk sample will be able to view this data. You don't need to take a sample, we have them in the fridge already.

It is essential that you discuss your ICSCC results, mastitis records and SDCT protocols with your vet.

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