



Mitchell Veterinary Services

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Dairy Newsletter  
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## CEFA DRI/ CEFA LAK/ DRY-CLOX PRODUCT PROMOTION

Between May 1<sup>st</sup> and July 31, 2015, when purchasing these mastitis treatments as a box of 12 or a pail of 144 tubes, BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM will provide a \$1 discount per tube in the form of a coupon that can be redeemed towards the cost of milk culturing. The milk must be submitted to the clinic where the mastitis treatment products were purchased. Coupons must be redeemed before November 30, 2015.

This promotion is to encourage producers to identify the bacteria causing mastitis in their cows. With this information the appropriate treatment program will be used. The type of bacteria that cause mastitis are usually consistent on a farm, but can vary with the season of the year and environmental conditions.

Routine milk cultures submitted to the Animal Health Laboratory will cost \$11.70 per sample to culture plus \$11.05 for an antibiotic sensitivity panel for a total of \$22.75. There is also a courier fee of \$25 whether you submit one milk sample or many milk samples. The best value is to freeze mastitis samples over a few weeks and send several at once. Of the samples submitted, 40% will culture positive bacteria, so sometimes a single sample does not give a result. It often takes 4 working days to receive culture results. The reason that cows have mastitis but don't have a positive culture, are that the milk must have live bacteria in it when it is cultured. Some samples will not have live bacteria by the time you collect the sample, and there are some bacteria that will not survive the freezing process well. This is a good procedure when a herd is experiencing a noticeable increase in the number of mastitis cases and when we need to know the specific bacteria strain and drug sensitivity pattern of that bacteria.

Petrifilm culture is performed in the clinic at a cost of \$18.40 per sample. This test will produce results in 24 hours. The specific bacteria type is not identified, but the group it belongs to as gram positive or gram negative will be known. Treatment can be chosen based on that result and the farm history with treatment success. This can also identify Staph aureus as long as there are live Staph aureus in the sample at the time of culture. In cases where the mastitis is mild and the cow is not sick, you may choose to wait until you have the culture result before you start treatment. If there is not growth on the Petrifilm, then there is no reason to treat with antibiotics. If the quarter develops mastitis again, consider culture and treatment.

Rick