

Hill Farm Research Station
October 14, 2004
Field Day Summary Report

COMMODITY: Dairy

TITLE: Update on Mycoplasma Mastitis Program

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TAKE HOME MESSAGE:

A cooperative effort between dairy producers, the LSU AgCenter, LDAF and the Louisiana Farm Bureau has resulted in a statewide program to monitor the states dairies for mycoplasma mastitis along with other more common types of mastitis.

PROBLEM/TOPIC:

Mycoplasma mastitis is a highly contagious type of mastitis that does not respond to antimicrobial therapy. This type of mastitis poses no human health concerns, rather it is an economic concern for the dairy producers.

ACTION:

Dairy producers in cooperation with the Louisiana Farm Bureau the LDAF and LSU AgCenter developed a program to monitor all dairies in the state on a monthly basis for 1 year beginning in March, 2004. Bulk milk samples are collected by LDAF and sent by couriers to the Mastitis Research Laboratory of the Hill Farm Research Station. Samples are cultured for mycoplasma mastitis, as well as, other more common types of mastitis pathogens. Information on herd mastitis status is provided to dairy producers through the LCES. Herds positive for mycoplasma mastitis undergo individual cow testing to identify infected cows. Dairy producers are advised by LCES personnel on methods to control this type of mastitis.

IMPACT:

The mycoplasma control program instituted in Louisiana is a proactive response to a potentially serious problem to the industry. The Louisiana dairy producers along with the Farm Bureau, LCES, LAES, and LDAF responded quickly and cooperatively to catch this problem before it could take firm hold in Louisiana. The multi-organizational response is unique and will likely be a pattern for other states as this type of mastitis is becoming more widespread in the United States. Thus far only 5 herds have tested positive for mycoplasma. However, more importantly, awareness of the problem is now high and educational opportunities are now more effective. Also, since most dairy producers do not have mycoplasma mastitis the additional information on all types of mastitis is helping all dairy producers in the state be more efficient producers.