



## ***Corynebacterium bovis* – A practical summary for controlling mastitis**

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*Corynebacterium bovis* is a contagious, Gram positive mastitis-causing pathogen. *C. bovis* typically will produce little to no growth on blood agar after 24 hours of culture, but will show creamy, grey or white non-hemolytic colonies at 48 hours. *C. bovis* is mildly pathogenic, and will usually cause only a mild increase in SCC and a slight reduction in milk production. Information in this document was summarized from the National Mastitis Council: Laboratory Handbook on Bovine Mastitis (Hogan et al. 1999).

### **Where are these organisms found?**

*C. bovis* will colonize the **teat canal**, and thus the teat canal as well as infected udders will act as reservoirs for infection.

### **How does *C. bovis* spread to the mammary gland?**

This pathogen is contagious and therefore will spread from **cow to cow at milking**.

### **How can you prevent and control mastitis caused by *C. bovis*?**

Proper milking procedures including the use of **efficacious post-milking teat disinfectants** will help to reduce the number of new infections. After unit detachment, the application of a proven post-milking teat disinfectant should be applied with coverage over at least two-thirds of the teat barrel. The exception to this are post-dips with the active ingredient linear dodecyl-benzene sulfonic acid, which are not effective against *C. bovis*. Furthermore, **dry cow therapy** is very effective in eliminating this pathogen.

### **When are *C. bovis* mastitis infections most likely to occur?**

New infections can occur at any time during lactation. Prevalence of *C. bovis* is very low in herds utilizing an efficacious post-dip.

### **How likely are *C. bovis*-infected quarters to cure?**

Dry cow therapy is very effective in eliminating *C. bovis*. Antibiotic therapy during lactation is not recommended.

### **Quick Notes**

- *C. bovis* is a contagious pathogen that colonizes the teat canal
- Efficacious post-milking disinfectants will dramatically reduce the *C. bovis* infection rate
- Dry cow therapy is very effective in eliminating *C. bovis*

### **References**

Hogan, J.S., Gonzalez, R.N., Harmon, R.J., Nickerson, S.C., Oliver, S.P., Pankey, J.W., Smith, K.L. **Laboratory Handbook on Bovine Mastitis**. Natl. Mastitis Counc., Inc., Madison, WI; 1999.

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