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### Use of **ORBESEAL** in the Dry Period.

It has been well accepted that the use of **ORBESEAL** at the start of the Dry Period has a significant role to play in the prevention of new udder infections during this time. It is widely used in conjunction with an antibiotic preparation or on its own in those cows with a low cell count in well managed herds.

We have had a letter from Dairy UK backing the claims made above, but also warning us of the potential of the development of a condition called black spot which can occur in mature cheddar cheese if the product is used incorrectly. Black Spot is caused when residues of bismuth subnitrate get into the milk supply. During the maturation of mature cheddar oil droplets containing bismuth subnitrate can react with hydrogen sulphide resulting in the formation of black or light grey spots. These spots or defects are not of a food health issue but they will affect the commercial value of the product.

Administration of Orbeseal to ensure best results and prevention of the above.

As mentioned in the initial paragraph above many dairies are using **Orbeseal** in conjunction with a dry cow antibiotic tube, a practice that we would fully endorse, as the dry period is the best time to try and treat existing infections but also to prevent new ones from developing.

The "treatment" of the dry cow is a procedure that takes time and hence is best done as a separate job and not during the milking process. The cow/cows to be dried off should be separated from the main herd at the time of milking and then run into the parlour again at the end to have their dry cow tubes inserted.

#### Dry Cow Therapy

Before inserting any product teats must be washed and dried carefully prior to disinfection. The teat ends should be swabbed with cotton wool soaked in surgical spirit or alcohol pads.

#### Use of Antibiotic Dry Cow Tubes

Type of tube used should be determined by:

1. The bacteria that have caused mastitis during the last lactation. It is always useful to analyse a number of mastitis samples or milk samples from high cell count cows during each lactation to build up a picture of which bacteria are present on your farm.
2. The length of the dry period 42vs 60 days

You should start by "treating" those teats that are farthest away from you. The antibiotic dry cow tube should be inserted carefully into the prepared teat end for the minimum distance and contents injected into the teat cistern

The antibiotic preparation should then be gently milked up towards the udder. If not using **Orbeseal** the teats should be dipped in a post milking teat preparation as soon as possible after tube insertion.

### Use of Orbeseal either on its own or in combination therapy

Teats should be prepared as described above prior to insertion. It is important to remember that **Orbeseal** must remain in the teat cistern to be fully effective and to be easily removed at the start of lactation.

#### Method

1. Starting with the teat nearest you, insert the Orbeseal syringe nozzle into the teat canal, firmly grasp the base of the teat at the udder attachment and slowly inject the contents of the syringe. ***If teats are short it may not require all the contents of the syringe to be inserted. If the product is forcefully inserted into the teat then when releasing the grip at the base of the teat some of the contents will escape into the gland cistern and problems may arise.*** One syringe must be used per quarter, even if the full contents of a syringe are not totally used.
2. Insert **Orbeseal** into the nearest teats first to minimise contamination of teats that have not been treated.
3. Apply a post milking teat dip to cover 90% of each teat
4. Mark each treated cow and move them away from the milking herd.
5. Treated animals must be allowed to stand for 30 minutes to allow the teat ends to close properly.

#### Post Calving

To remove Orbeseal, take the top of the teat, pinch tight and hand strip the entire quarter ten to twelve times prior to the first milking.

It is good practice to strip and check the foremilk carefully for the first few milkings for any evidence of remaining particles.

If you have any questions regarding this issue then please contact the surgery.