



Dry period in dairy cows

The dry period is a crucial time in the lactation cycle for mastitis prevention and control. Some authors, in fact, have reported that over 60% of new environmental intramammary infections are contracted during dry period.

During this period of cow lifespan, cows must face with several challenges represented by changes in diet characteristics, a different pen allocation and milk production interruption. The period directly following dry off and before calving are associated with an increased susceptibility to new IMI, as has been reported in literature. In fact, most of mastitis derive from infections which occur during the dry period and come out clinically in the first months of lactation. A proper management of drying off method can also contribute to reduce antimicrobial use, which nowadays is an important aspect of farming sustainability.

In addition, there are other two critical aspects to take in account, the overcrowding and the milk yield at drying off time. The latter aspect is directly related to the risk of mammary infection around the calving, above all when the milk yield is over 13-15 kg per milking.

In a study, it has also been demonstrated that higher milk yield at dry off can be associated with higher somatic cell count in the following lactation.



In fact, cows at dry-off time, especially when milk cessation is abrupt, experience pain and discomfort, thus reducing the total lying time and spending more time standing up, often vocalizing closely to the milking parlor.

*In order to alleviate the mammary congestion, reduce rapidly milk yield at dry-off time and mitigate potential detrimental effects of dry-offing on cow behavior, the oral administration of **RUMIBOL DRY** will be a valid solution.*

***RUMIBOL DRY** is a phytotherapeutic compound, composed of several herbs which exert different activities: decongestant, antispasmodic, astringent, and diuretic.*

BIBLIOGRAPHY

P.N. Gott, P.J. Rajala-Schultz, G.M. Scheunemann, K.L. Proudfoot, J.S. Hogan, Effect of gradual or abrupt cessation of milking at dry off on milk yield and somatic cell score in the subsequent lactation, Journal of Dairy Science, Volume 100, Issue 3, 2017.

P.J. Rajala-Schultz, P.N. Gott, K.L. Proudfoot, G.M. Scheunemann. Effect