

Points arising during the Central Mastitis Review Group Meeting held on 19 November 2008

National milk quality statistics

The average GB milk quality statistics published on the DairyCo Datum website and the Northern Ireland milk quality statistics for January to September 2008 were discussed. The GB rolling annual average cell count is 196,000 cells/ml, unchanged from one year ago.

Cell count ring trials

Four GB laboratories participated in the latest Ceca-Lait proficiency test. All four laboratories performed within the requirements of the international standard

Therapy and prevention

DairyCo will soon be rolling out the DairyCo mastitis plan. The plan will be rolled out to the veterinary profession initially; producers will then be able to identify veterinary surgeons trained in the plan. The aim is to develop a team capable of delivering the plan on a national basis. The plan is a reproducible route for the management of mastitis; the philosophy of the plan is to provide a comprehensive approach to mastitis management rather than looking for a quick fix. The plan will identify specific key areas requiring action on individual farms.

The issue of use of dry cow antibiotic therapy in uninfected cows was raised again at a recent IDF meeting. Most European countries, particularly the Scandinavian countries, do not approve of antibiotic dry cow therapy for uninfected cows.

Other points

A Farmers Guardian article which reported the identification of *E. coli* 026 with ESBL resistance in cattle on a farm in the north of England was noted.