

Mentor Programmes

MastiMentor



OVERVIEW

The XLVets Skillnet MastiMentor is a disease monitoring training programme available to dairy farmers. From a mastitis investigation, a veterinary practitioner can identify the causative agent which in turn helps identify the likely source of infection, educate farmers on herd health management and the appropriate use of antibiotics on their farm. The MastiMentor Programme will;

- Identify pathogens causing mastitis
- Identify potential sources of mastitis - Contagious or environment
- Aid with therapeutic decisions – Treat, dry or cull
- Identify suitable antibiotic for use in clinical outbreaks and dry cow therapy
- Monitor success of treatment
- Detect in vitro drug resistance

ANALYSIS

4 sterile milk samples are analysed for Culture and Sensitivity

Sterile samples are required - Vet to take samples or train farmer how to take.

Samples will survive for >6 months if frozen – Can advise to wait until 4 samples collected

WHEN IS MASTIMENTOR MOST USEFUL?

- Any time of year
- In face of clinical mastitis outbreak or unexplained raised bulk SCC
- Post milk recording – view problem cow report on ICBF
- Prior to drying off – Identify best dry cow tube for herd based on culture and sensitivity
- Early Lactation – to monitor success of dry cow treatment

TARGET ANIMALS

- Cows with signs of Clinical Mastitis or recurrent Mastitis
- Cows identified with raised Somatic Cell Count (SCC) identified by milk recording
- Bulk milk to isolate any other pathogens

FARMER BENEFIT

The emergence of multi resistant bacteria has placed a spotlight on antibiotic use on dairy farms with some antibiotics likely to be withdrawn from animal use in 2022. Blanket antibiotic use such as in Dry Cow Therapy across the herd will no longer be allowed unless supported by laboratory evidence. XLVet Skillnet's MastiMentor uses science based evidence to determine best treatment options for both clinical mastitis and for Dry Cow Therapy.

Once samples are analysed, the vets engages in a one to one discussion with the farmer to identify the source of the problem and gives farm-specific advice regarding solutions and whether treatment or culling is the best option.

Engaging in the MastiMentor programme will not only increase the farmers knowledge of the mastitis infection but also help improve their herd health management skills.



Farmer Fee

€30

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