Swallowdale Farm quarter-level culture summary

Type of intramammary infection (IMI)	*Number of IMI over study period*		*Type of intramammary infection*	*Average quarter-level SCC by infection type*	*Range of quarter-level SCC:* Min	Max
Staph. species	28		Other Gram-positive organism *(Weissella cibaria)*	2,200,000	2,200,000	2,200,000
Mixed infection: Staph. species, Strep. species	8		Staph. aureus	1,673,000	919,000	3,000,000
Strep. species	7		Corynebacterium species	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
Staph. aureus	2		Strep. species	459,500	3,000	1,800,000
Corynebacterium species	1		*Mixed infection:* Staph. species, Strep. species	290,000	58,000	1,800,000
Mixed infection: Strep. sp., Corynebacterium sp.	1		Staph. species	175,339	0	1,300,000
Other Gram-positive organism (*Weissella cibaria*)	1		*Mixed infection:* Strep. sp., Corynebacterium sp.	7,000	7,000	7,000

Summary of quarter-level results: As seen in the first table, most intramammary infections on your farm were caused by Staph. species (28). However, the average SCC for these quarters with CNS wasn't elevated above normal (right-hand table, avg 175,000 cells/mL). The fairly large range of quarter-level SCC for Staph. species quarters could likely be explained by identifying exactly what species of Staph is causing the infection, as some species of CNS are more of a concern than others. We are currently in the process of identifying all Staph to species level, but don't yet have these results. The next most common pathogen type on your farm was infections involving Strep. species (15, combining single and mixed infections). Besides the 1 Corynebacterium infection, 1 Weisella infection (an uncommon pathogen), and the 2 Staph. aureus infections, quarters with Strep. species infections were moderate contributors to the bulk tank SCC (avg 500,000 ccells/mL).

Take home message: From the small number of infected quarters and low bulk tank SCC seen on the farm during the study period, udder health and milk quality on your farm is clearly excellent! One opportunity identified by these quarter-level culture results for milk quality improvement would be identifying the few Staph. aureus-positive quarters within the herd. Staph. aureus infections were very limited- your hard work and attention to controlling this contagious pathogen on your farm are clearly evident! Strep. species were a more common contributor to the bulk tank somatic cell count. Strep. species (for the most part) are environmental pathogens, and best controlled by continuing efforts to provide adequate amounts of clean, dry bedding, and improved lot sanitation.