von Trapp 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	32		Strep. species	1,276,500	6,000	2,400,000
Strep. species	2		Staph. aureus	500,000	170,000	680,000
Corynebacterium species	2		*Mixed infection:* Staph. sp., Corynebacterium sp.	121,500	43,000	200,000
Mixed infection: Staph. species, Corynebacterium	2		Staph. species	103,375	2,000	860,000
Unknown organism	2		Unknown organism	39,000	6,000	72,000
Staph. aureus	1		Corynebacterium species	11,000	10,000	12,000
Mixed infection: Bacillus species, Staph. species	1		*Mixed infection* : Bacillus species, Staph. species	11,000	11,000	11,000

Summary of quarter-level results: As seen in the first table, most intramammary infections on your farm by far were caused by Staph. species (32). However, the average SCC for these quarters with CNS wasn't elevated above normal (avg 103,000 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. Looking at the average quarter-level SCC of infected quarters (right-hand table), you can see that the infected quarters contributing most to a higher bulk tank SCC would be the quarters infected with Strep. species and Staph. aureus- but on your farm, there were only 2 Strep. species infections and 1 Staph. aureus infection (Leopard, LH) seen during the whole study!

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! The only real opportunity identified by these quarter-level culture results would be to emphasize the importantance of identifying any new Staph. aureus-positive quarters within your herd. Your hard work and attention to controlling this contagious pathogen on your farm is clearly evident, and continuing to identify and manage these quarters is important to prevent it from spreading.