Oughta-Be 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	36		Staph. aureus	2,205,857	11,000	18,000,000
Staph. aureus	7		Strep. species	604,100	2,000	3,500,000
Mixed infection: Staph. species, Strep. species	7		*Mixed infection:* Staph. species, Strep. species	349,083	20,000	1,200,000
Corynebacterium species	6		Staph. species	280,916	3,000	2,600,000
Strep. species	4		*Mixed infection:* Strep. sp., Corynebacterium sp.	66,333	8,000	130,000
Mixed infection: Strep. sp., Corynebacterium sp.	3		Corynebacterium species	7,000	2,000	12,000
Other Gram-postive organism	1		Other Gram-postive organism	2,000	2,000	2,000

Summary of quarter-level results: As seen in the first table, most intramammary infections on your farm by far were caused by Staph. species (36), followed by Staph. aureus (7) and mixed infections with Staph. sp. and Strep sp. (7). 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 Staph. aureus and Strep. species. Although infections with Staph. species (CNS) were the most common, the average SCC for these quarters was not dramatically elelvated (avg 281,000 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.

Take home message: The primary opportunity identified by these quarter-level culture results for milk quality improvement would be to continue your efforts identifying and managing Staph. aureus-positive quarters within the herd. Although they comprised a smaller number of infections (4), Strep. species were the next biggest 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 in stalls, and improved lot sanitation.