

Anonymous Farm quarter-level culture summary					
				Range of quarter-level SCC:	
Type of intramammary infection (IMI)	Number of IMI over study period	Type of intramammary infection	Average quarter-level SCC by infection type	Min	Max
Staph. species	15	Mixed infection: Staph. aureus, Strep. species	1,205,000	810,000	1,600,000
Corynebacterium species	8	Staph. aureus	1,157,556	62,000	4,100,000
Unknown organism	6	Staph. species	298,706	3,000	2,000,000
Staph. aureus	4	Strep. species	270,000	4,000	799,000
Other Gram-positive bacteria	3	Gram-negative, non-coliform organism	42,000	42,000	42,000
Strep. species	3	Unknown organism	19,500	8,000	37,000
Mixed infection: Staph. aureus, Strep. species	1	Corynebacterium species	13,000	2,000	37,000
Gram-negative, non-coliform organism	1	Mixed infection: Strep. species, Corynebacterium sp.	13,000	13,000	13,000
Mixed infection: Strep. species, Corynebacterium sp.	1	Other Gram-positive bacteria	7,000	4,000	10,000
Summary of quarter-level results: As seen in the first table, the large majority of intramammary infections on your farm were caused by Staph. species (15), followed by infections with Corynebacterium species (8). However, 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 Staph. aureus infected quarters (and quarters with mixed infections containing S. aureus). Although infections with Staph. species (CNS) and Corynebacterium were the most common, the SCC for these quarters were not dramatically increased (average around 300,000 and 13,000 cells/mL, respectively). 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: From the low number of intrammary infections seen during the study period, milk quality on your farm is clearly excellent! Although the majority of infections were caused by Staph. species (CNS), the primary opportunity identified by these quarter-level culture results for milk quality improvement would be identifying Staph. aureus-positive quarters within the herd.					