Stony Pond 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
December visit:			***December visit:***			
Uninfected quarters	111		*Uninfected quarters*	137,748	3,000	2,570,000
Staph. species	22		Staph. species	489,455	15,000	3,003,000
Corynebacterium species	2		Staph. aureus	170,500	94,000	247,000
Staph. aureus	2		Unknown organism	135,000	135,000	135,000
Unknown organism	1		Corynebacterium species	44,000	10,000	78,000
January visit:			***January visit:***			
Uninfected quarters	92		*Uninfected quarters*	526,413	6,000	8,400,000
Staph. species	25		Serratia	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000
Staph. aureus	1		Staph. species	757,800	50,000	6,100,000
Serratia	1		Staph. aureus	330,000	330,000	330,000

Summary of quarter-level results: To try and seperate out the effect of all cows drying off on quarter SCC, results are presented seperately for each visit. As seen in the two tables on the left-hand side, most intramammary infections on your farm by far were caused by Staph. species (22 in December, 25 in January). The right-hand table shows the average quarter-level SCC by infection type for each pathogen group, with uninfected quarters as a baseline (to show effect of simply drying off on SCC). Staph. species-infected quarters had a moderately elevated average SCC when compared to uninfected quarters, for both visits. 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: Although interpretation is somewhat muddled by all cows drying off, the low number of Staph. aureus infections identified (3) and lack of infections from environmental streps show udder health and milk quality on your farm is good. Identifying the CNS down to the species level may help identify if there are more pathogenic Staph. species circulating. Knowing the particular Staph. species on your farm will be especially interesting, as this group of bacteria can have important implications for cheese-making.