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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO



Establishment of a risk-based food safety control system in the Ukrainian dairy value chain

Somatic Cell Count (SCC) and Total Microbial Count (TMC): what do they mean biologically and financially?

Training of Trainers (ToT), focus: transporters and MCP

Activity 3.1.1.2 Jorge Pinto Ferreira 20-22.02.2017

# Milking hygiene, quality and safety





## Somatic cells: what are they?

- mixture of milk-producing cells shed from the udder tissue (about 2%) and cells from the immune system (98%), known as leukocytes (aka white blood cells)
- they are in the udder as a surveillance mechanism = SCC levels are never zero
- $\widehat{U}$  SCC =  $\Psi$  milk production
- lipolytic and proteolytic enzymes = deterioration of milk fat and protein







# Milking hygiene, quality and safety

#### **Sub-clinical mastitis**



Californian Mastitis Test





**Reaction**: cells releasing DNA when the CMT solution breaks open the cells







https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twtxPoFkr40



# Milking hygiene, quality and safety

#### **Sub-clinical mastitis**

Tank SCC	% Production losses	% Infected quarters
200 000	0	6
500 000	6	16
1 000 000	18	32
1 500 000	29	48



## **Does high SCC = presence of pathogen?**

- Negative growth (25 to 40%):
  - Inhibitors residues presence
  - S. aureus; Mycoplasma spp...: intracelular "parasites"
  - Microrg. in n.º lower that we can detect (0,01ml de leite 100 ufc/ml)
    - Asseptic inflammation
  - Mycoplasma spp (anaerobiosis)
  - Incorrect storage
  - New agents? "Be a virus, see the world!"



## **Total Microbial Count (TMC)**

 Number of bacteria in a sample that can grow and form countable colonies on Standard Methods Agar after being held at 32°C for 48 hours



## The importance of cleaning and hygiene









#### Which one is before and after cleaning and disinfection?



#### What does this mean financially? Data from Ukraine



	SCC	ТМС	Price (UAH) 01.11.2016	Max. price (UAH) 01.11.2016
Extra	< 400	< 100	7.21	8.3
Premium	< 400	< 300	7.2	8.13
I Grade	< 600	< 500	6.89	7.5
II Grade	< 800	< 3000	4.95	5.31



#### What does this mean financially? An example from Portugal



SCC	€
< =300.000 (baseline)	0,000
<= 400.000	- 0,0090
> 400.000	- 0,0450

ТМС	€
< =50.000 (baseline)	0,000
<= 100.000	- 0,0150
> 100.000	- 0,0450



#### What does this mean financially? An example from Switzerland



An award is paid if all the limits are fulfilled in the same month: TMC < 10.000 cfu/mL + SCC < 100.000 cells/mL + no inhibitors = plus CHF 0.005

SCC and TMC	CHF
1st complaint in 5 months	- 0.01
2nd complaint in 5 months	- 0,03
3rd complaint in 5 months	- 0,06
4th complaint in 5 months	- 0.12
5ht complaint in 5 months	- 0.24 plus block



## **Conclusions:**





- SCC are mostly leukocytes = defense cells
- TMC = number of bacteria in a sample that can grow and form countable colonies on standard methods agar (32°C, 48h)
- SCC and TMC can have a significant financial impact







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#### Thank you for your attention jorge.pinto-ferreira@safoso.ch

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