Case Study #1: Dutch Road Dairy

Interviews From: Matt Beckerink and Ben Knickerson

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WHO:

Matt Beckerink is a second-generation dairy farmer from New York. During his time in New York he and his father owned two dairies. One dairy was a 700 cow dairy being milked on a double 14 parallel, and the other was a 300 cow dairy being milked on a double 12 parallel parlor. After getting sick of the cold and wanting a fresh start in a warmer climate, he packed up 700 of his cows and moved his family to Muleshoe Texas. In 2009, he bought a two-year-old dairy and named it Dutch Road Dairy. With the help of his father, wife, and 4 children, Dutch Road has become more efficient by raising all of their heifers on site and does all of their own farming on premises.

WHAT:

My research dairy is Dutch Road Dairy. It is milking 1800 to 2000 cows depending on the season. They have 20 employees working 24 hours a day to make sure the dairy runs smoothly at all times. They bed their cows on dry manure solids in an open lot. Their parlor consists of a Westfalia Surge double 30 parallel parlor that was built in 2007.

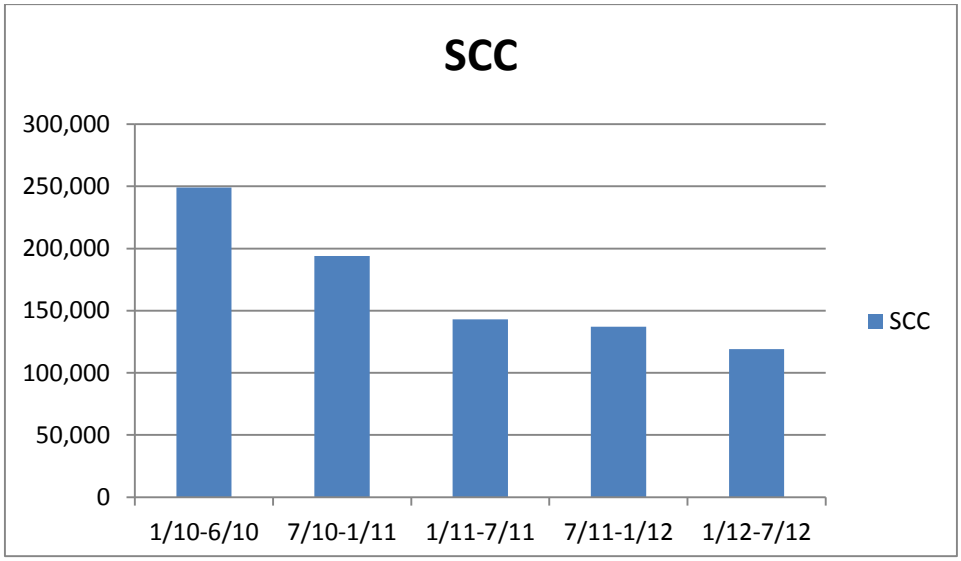
For the parlor, they have 3 total people in the pit, 2 people milking and 1 pusher. They milk the cows 3 times a day using 3 different shifts. In July of 2010 they installed The FutureCow Teatscrubber. Since then the teatscrubber has provided numerous advantages to their every day quality of milk.

WHY?

Dutch Road Dairy initially invested in The FutureCow Teatscrubber to reduce the amount of labor needed in their pit. In 2010, they had 4 people in the pit and one pusher. Once they installed the teatscrubber they were able to eliminate 3 full time positions, totaling an annual savings of $100,000. They eliminated their towel service, and washers and dryers who gave them additional return on investments up front.

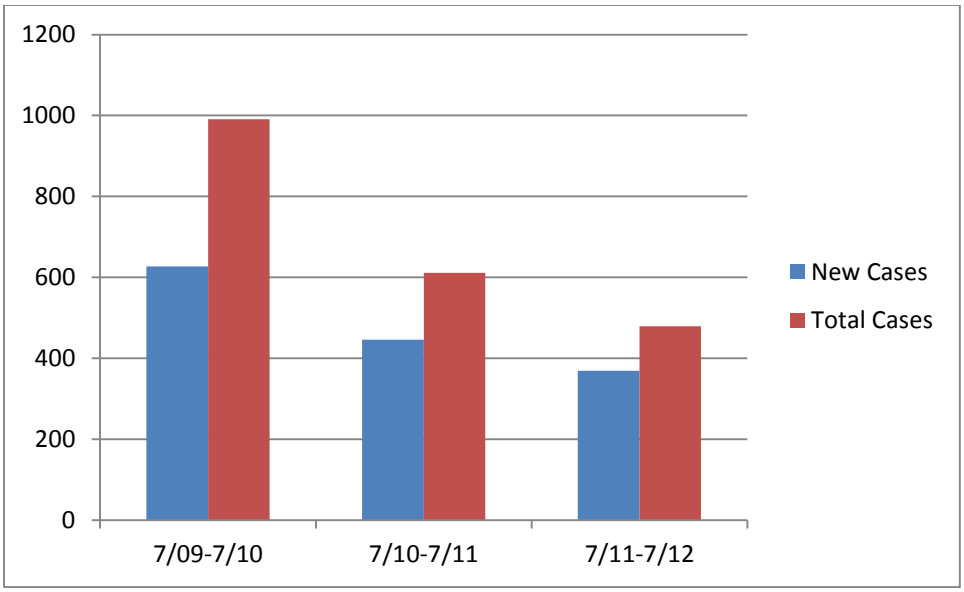
Besides monetary value they received from the teatscrubber my research also showed that their overall average somatic cell counts have continuously gone down.

Date	6month Average
1/10-6/10	249,000
7/10-1/11	194,000
1/11-7/11	143,000
7/11-1/12	137,000
1/12-7/12	119,000



In addition to their somatic cell counts going down, they also saw a significant improvement in their mastitis outbreaks since 2010 until now.

Date	New Cases	Total Cases
7/09-7/10	627	991
7/10-7/11	446	611
7/11-7/12	369	479



They also lowered their hospital pen from 2% to less than 1%. This also gives them lower vet bills and less money spent on antibiotics needed to treat infections.

According to Matt, The FutureCow Teatscrubber is a great investment for any dairy farmer. The pros with the system definitely outweigh the cons. Matt say's The FutureCow Teatscrubber is easy to work with, excellent for cow comfort and works overall better than the manual prep with let-down and stimulation. He would recommend it to anyone.