

Mastitis Focus fact sheet

Spread of infection

The **New Infection Rate** shows how quickly infection is spreading to clean cows. This is usually not obvious as most mastitis infections are subclinical.

Taking immediate action when this measure is above the trigger level may help avert a clinical case outbreak.

Understanding your report

The **New Infection Rate** at the top of your report in **Your Herd Annual Performance Summary** gives the overall spread of infection rate for the entire report period

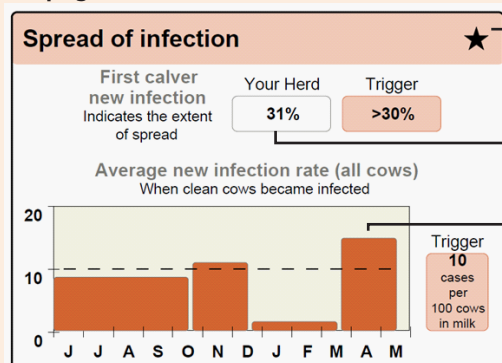
If you would like more detailed interpretation about what is happening in your herd contact an adviser in your area and/or visit smartsamm.co.nz. Tips for controlling spread of infection can be found in Healthy Udder and Guidelines 5 to 13 under Resources > Guidelines > Lactation.

Seek professional advice if mastitis indicators are above trigger levels. There are benefits to be gained through making improvements.

Spread of infection

The **Spread of Infection** box shows when spread is active in the periods between herd tests, compared to trigger. First calving heifers are reported separately as they are at higher risk.

On page 1



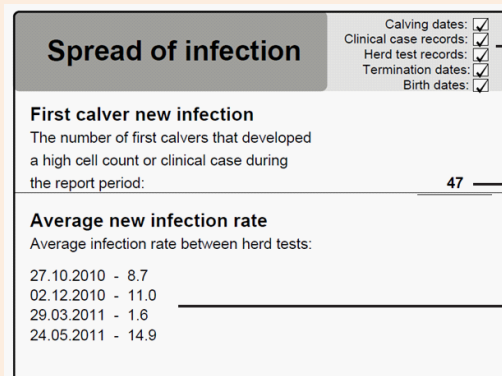
A single star rating indicates that you need to take action

If your herd has a high first calver new infection rate it confirms that spread is a real issue because heifers are presumed clean before they first enter the milking herd



Tip: Each bar on the graph represents the new infection rate between herd tests. Page 2 of your report shows the number of cows included at each herd test—make sure the number looks right!

On page 2



Trap: If a tick is missing it means that those records were not available. Include all records to get a comprehensive report



Trap: If birthdates are not supplied then there may be inaccuracies in the number of animals classed as 'first calvers'

These are the actual rates that correspond to the graph on page 1.

Your records required for an accurate report

- Spread of infection can only be assessed in herds that participate in herd testing
- Calving and termination (especially dry-off) dates are needed to establish the 'clean' group of cows
- Birthdates are required to identify first calvers.