



Reduce Treatment Costs with DecisiveDry

Make more informed dry-off decisions — and reduce antibiotic use and cost

HerdHQ brings together test day SCC, mastitis events, and treatment cost data to help you take a more targeted approach to dry cow therapy. With the right decision-making tools, many herds can safely reduce antibiotic use without sacrificing udder health. This how-to guide provides an example of how HerdHQ may help identify those opportunities and highlight areas where ROI could be realized.

ROI Highlight

\$11.00 Saved per Cow

HerdHQ's DecisiveDry tool supports Selective Dry Cow Therapy (SDCT), helping you identify which cows might not need antibiotics at dry-off — reducing costs and unnecessary treatments.¹

How to View this in HerdHQ

Use **DecisiveDry** to evaluate herd eligibility for SDCT and identify individual cows that can be skipped for antibiotic dry-off treatment.

Set up the SDCT Report

- Use **DecisiveDry** and select Create New SDCT Report Setup
 - ◊ Complete the form. Select **DartSync** if uploading **DartSync** information. This will also provide for the opportunity to include Mastitis Events.

Save and View the Results

- This summary will show the number of tests in the last 12 months and how many of those were above the Herd Max designation.
- It is recommended that a herd have a minimum of 8 DHI test days with SCC results and less than 3 test days above the Herd's Max SCC.

The screenshot shows the 'DECISIVE DRY' interface for setting up a Selective Dry Cow Therapy (SDCT) report. The form is titled 'Selective Dry Cow Therapy (SDCT)' and contains several input fields and dropdown menus. At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Back to list', 'Clear', 'Save', and 'View Results'.

Field	Value
Report Name	Cows to Dry
HerdCode	34559999
String # of cows to include (0=all cows)	0
Data Source	DartSync
Names of Mastitis Events in Dart	MAST 2+ QRTS, MAST LFT FRT, MAST LT REAR, MAST RGT FRT, MAST RT REAR
For SDCT, Don't Include Cows With Mastitis Event Within ? Days	100
Don't Recommend SDCT in Herd if Avg SCC > ?	250
For SDCT, Don't Include Cows With SCC > ?	200
Target # of Days Dry	60
Cows to dry in next X days	7
Drug cost per cow	20
Labor cost per cow	2

View Upcoming Dry Cows and SDCT Eligibility

- The screen lists cows due to dry off in the next week or number of days established in the setup.
 - ◇ Based on your settings, cows that are eligible for Selective Dry Cow Therapy will be shaded green with a check mark. Those not eligible will be shaded in red with a triangle.
 - ◇ Reasons for cows not eligible for SDCT
 - » Mastitis event in the number of days established
 - » Current and/or previous test above SCC eligibility level
 - » Average SCC from the last 3 tests exceeds eligibility level

Case	Name	Grp	Lact #	DM	Pre Milk	Cur Milk	Lact SCC	Pre TST	Cur TST	SDCT Elig	Dry	Days Dry Last	Due	Days Lact Last	Days Sinc Last	Pre Lact Last	Cur Lact Last	Pre Lact SCC	Cur Lact SCC	Pre Lact L5	Cur Lact L5	Pre Lact % >=	Cur TST % N/A	Pre 305d ECM	Cur 305d ECM	Pre 305d Milk	Pre Ind Index	Total Solds %		
7176	7176	8	5	303	106.9	86.8	13	13	13	Y	✓	06/27	✓	58	08/26		0.1	14	0.3	17	0.4	5	0	0.0	30649	37760	27692	95	14.7	
7780	7780	8	4	329	116.1	91.5	20	13	13	38	Y	✓	06/29	✓	60	08/28		1.6	18	0.4	25	0.9	5	0	0.0	37101	47347	35148	126	14.4
8207	8207	8	3	321	125.7	114.3	19	13	13	Y	✓	06/29	✓	59	08/28		0.1	16	0.3	20	0.8	5	0	0.0	40160	44682	39680	122	13.8	
9441	9441	7	1	300	95.3	93.0	204	123	325	▲	N	06/29	✓	58	08/28		4.7	145	2.6			5	1	0.1	29918	39597	37665	121	14.5	
7613	7613	7	4	321	155.1	135.6	43	▲	366	▲	373	▲	N	06/30	54	08/29		4.9	274	3.2	84	2.0	5	3	0.2	44924	45665	42559	117	12.4
7731	7731	8	4	346	130.2	131.7	688	429	425	▲	857	▲	N	06/30	97	08/29	Y	6.1	903	3.8	28	0.9	5	5	0.4	38368	44021	36349	112	13.5
8681	8681	8	2	364	133.5	130.2	193	13	44	Y	✓	06/30	✓	60	08/30		1.8	126	0.2			6	1	0.0	44475	47588	47810	139	14.5	
8832	8832	7	3	301	144.9	131.7	717	1300	566	▲	N	07/01	53	08/30	Y	179	Y	5.5	562	4.6	657	5.6	5	4	0.3	40027	42715	39414	111	12.9
8922	8922	7	2	303	104.1	90.3	19	18	13	Y	✓	07/01	51	08/30		0.1	17	0.4	18	0.4	5	0	0.0	26087	32323	30093	95	13.3		
8957	8957	7	2	298	108.3	93.0	33	41	41	Y	✓	07/01	47	08/30		1.7	30	1.2	37	1.1	4	0	0.0	32487	37275	35022	109	13.5		
9348	9348	7	1	301	88.8	94.8	42	33	132	Y	✓	07/01	47	08/30		2.4	63	1.9			5	0	0.0	27653	33978	32591	109	14.5		

Review Treatment Costs and Savings

- The screen displays:
 - ◊ The total costs of treating the cows not eligible
 - ◊ The savings for not treating cows
 - ◊ A detailed report is available for further data analysis

DecisiveDry Results as of 5/14/2025

Report Name: Cows to Dry HerdCode: 34559999 Data source: DartSync String: 0	Past 12 Months SCC Tests: 7 ▲ Past 12 Months High SCC Tests: 1 ▼ Avg SCC Herd: 219 ✓ Herd's Max SCC for SDCT Eligibility: 250 Cow's Max SCC for SDCT Eligibility: 200 Cow's Min Days Since Mastitis: 100	Target Period: 60 (days) Cows Suggested for Treatment: 18 ▲ Cows Suggested for No Treatment: 50 ✓ Cost of drugs & labor for treated cows: \$396.00 Savings in cost of drugs & labor for non treated cows: \$1,100.00
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Results
Detailed Results
Export Results

Cow	Name	Grp#	Lact#	DIM	Prev Milk	Curr Milk	Prev TD SCC	Curr TD SCC	Days Sinc Last Mast	Last 3TD SCC	SDCT elig	Dry	Due	
7176 ✓	7176	8	5	303	105.9	85.8	13	13		13	Y ✓	06/27	08/26	
7780 ✓	7780	8	4	329	116.1	91.5	13	38		20	Y ✓	06/29	08/28	
8207 ✓	8207	8	3	351	125.7	114.3	13	13		19	Y ✓	06/29	08/28	
9441	9441	7	1	320	99.3	93.0	123	325	▲	204	N	06/29	08/28	
7613	7613	7	4	321	155.1	135.6	566	▲	373	▲	423	N	06/30	08/29
7731	7731	8	4	345	130.2	113.1	429	▲	857	▲	688	N	06/30	08/29
8681 ✓	8681	8	2	364	133.5	130.2	13	44		193	Y ✓	06/30	08/29	
8392	8392	7	3	301	144.9	131.7	1300	▲	566	▲	717	N	07/01	08/30
8922 ✓	8922	7	2	303	101.4	90.3	18	13		19	Y ✓	07/01	08/30	

Use CowCompass for Deeper Evaluation

- Click on any individual cow to view her profile in **CowCompass®**
- This is especially helpful for cows with low production and not eligible for SDCT
- Additional information helps you decide to cull rather than dry off and keep for another lactation

Cow 7181

34559999

Breed

HO

Group

8

Barnname

7181

DHI ID

H0840003147335524

Birthdate

08/09/2018

RFD

840003147335524

Active

current as of 07/03/2025 01:20:31 PM ET

Current

ID

Events

Group Move

Lactation

Testday

Parlor

Breeding

Vet Check

Genetic

Health

Hoof

Protocols

Chores

Sick

Growth

Zoetis

-

Lactation 5

Lact #	Testdate	DIM	3X	Milk	% change	Fat%	Pro %	ECM	LSSCC	SCC	Lbs lost	\$ lost	305 Awt Milk
5	05/14/2025	288	yes	110.4	10.5	3.7	3.2	116	6.3	985	479	99.8	38565
5	03/14/2025	227	yes	99.9	-34.1	3.4	3.2	101	6.4	1056	351	77.2	37173
5	01/02/2025	156	yes	151.5	2.0	3.3	2.9	148	6.1	857	234	51.8	38460
5	11/15/2024	108	yes	148.5	14.3	3.0	2.9	139	5.0	400	151	32.0	34248
5	09/12/2024	44	yes	129.9	---	3.1	2.6	121	3.8	174	94	18.6	28111

Assumptions

- SDCT reduces antibiotic usage at dry-off by up to 55% (per MN DHIA & UMN data)
- If treatment = \$20 per cow, 55% reduction = \$11.00 savings per cow
- For a 1,000-cow herd: \$11,000 total savings

Footnote

¹Based on a 55% reduction in antibiotic use at dry-off through Selective Dry Cow Therapy (SDCT).

Assumes \$20 treatment cost per cow.

Source: University of Minnesota Extension. "Selective Dry Cow Therapy (SDCT)." Dairy Milking Cows, Regents of the University of Minnesota. Accessed June 10, 2025. <https://extension.umn.edu/dairy-milking-cows/selective-dry-cow-therapy#sdct-infographic-2754010>



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