



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 'Create/Edit Report' interface in HerdHQ. At the top, there are links for 'All Reports' and 'Create/Edit Report', and a '+ Create New Report' button. The main section is titled 'Report Name : Defaults Recorded, change to meet herd specifications'. Below this, there are fields for 'Date Created', 'Last Modified Date', 'Modified By', and 'Builder's Name', along with 'Save' and 'View Results' buttons. The form is divided into several sections: 'Report Info' with fields for 'Report Name' (containing 'Defaults Recorded, change to meet herd specifications') and 'Herd Code' (containing '34559999'); 'String # of cows to include (0 = all)' (set to '0') and 'Data Source' (set to 'TestDay'); 'Data Filters' with 'Mastitis Events in Dart' (set to '----Select----') and 'Exclude Mastitis in past ? days' (set to '100'); 'Recommendation Criteria' with 'Exclude SDCT when Herd Avg SCC > ?' (set to '250') and 'Exclude cows with SCC > ?' (with sub-fields for 'Lact1' at '200', 'L2' at '200', and 'L3+' at '200'); and 'Timing & Cost' with 'Cows to dry in next X days' (set to '7') and 'Target # of Days Dry' (set to '60'), 'Drug Cost per Cow' (set to '10'), and 'Labor Cost per Cow' (set to '2'). At the bottom, there are 'Clear', 'Save', and 'View Results' buttons.

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

[illegible]

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

[All Reports](#) / [Edit Report](#) / Report Results

Report name: Recent Test Day Results

Handicaps: 42998888
 Test Day
 Stings: 0

Past 12 Months SCC Tests: 13 ✓
 Past 12 Months High SCC Tests: 0 ✓
 Avg SCC Hand: 187 ✓
 Herd's Max SCC for SDCT Eligibility: 250
 Cow's Max SCC for SDCT Eligibility: 200 L2 200 L3 250
 Cow's Min Days Since Mastitis: 100

Target Period: 60 (days)
 Cows Suggested for Treatment: 42 A
 Cows Suggested for No Treatment: 72
 Cost for Treated Cows: \$504.00
 Savings for Non-Treated Cows: \$864.00

Results

Detailed Results

Export to Excel

Drag a column header and drop it here to group by that column.

Cow	Name	Grp #	Last #	DIM	Prev Milk	Curr Milk	Prev TD SCC	Curr TD SCC	Days Last Mast	Last TD SCC	SDCT elig	Dry Date	Due Date
14867 ✓	14867	9	3	380							Y	04/27	06/06
14073 ✓	14073	12	4	307	53.8	48.8	18			78	Y	05/12	07/21
12387 ✓	12387	0	5	351	54.6	52.3	18	33	201	46	Y	05/18	07/27
11564 ✓	11564	4	6	300	86.2	66.6	107	54		61	Y	05/19	07/28
12836 ✓	12836	3	5	375	40.7	35.3	22	230		102	Y	05/19	07/28
13277 ✓	13277	11	5	302	75.1	56.6	429 A	214		350 A	N	05/19	07/28
13482 ✓	13482	0	4	457	52.3	45.6	400 A	132		204	N	05/19	07/28
13868 ✓	13868	0	4	299	67.4	55.7	132	31	140	321 A	N	05/19	07/28
14627 ✓	14627	6	3	344	64.6	58.6	13			30	Y	05/19	07/28
15536 ✓	15536	0	2	441	63.4	58.2	66	22		51	Y	05/19	07/28
16393 ✓	16393	11	2	323	70.6	48.7	47	107		68	Y	05/19	07/28
17001 ✓	17001	0	2	355	56	52.9	187	25		80	Y	05/19	07/28
2918 ✓	2918	11	9	301	79.4	73.1	50	123		1356 A	N	05/19	07/28
12681 ✓	12681	11	5	323	67.4	48.7	23	174	272	82	Y	05/19	07/29
13202 ✓	13202	12	4	301	91.6	81.5	13	41		27	Y	05/19	07/29
13861 ✓	13861	12	4	301	67.1	47.6	33	162		73	Y	05/19	07/29
13981 ✓	13981	12	4	302	76.5	26.3	31	850 A		113	N	05/19	07/29
14709 ✓	14709	11	4	303	63.7	50.1	1056 A	132		429 A	N	05/19	07/29
14957 ✓	14957	11	3	350	54.9	45.6	174	25		80	Y	05/19	07/29
15163 ✓	15163	11	3	300	77.1	72.2	13	18		15	Y	05/19	07/29

1 2 3 4 5 ...

20 items per page

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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

<- Back to Search

Cow 7881

34559999

Breed	HO	Barnname	7881
Group	3	DNA ID	HO840003211464984
Birth Date	12/09/2019	RFD	840003290515364

Active

■ Dry Cow
■ Milking Cow
■ Heifer
■ Bull

current as of 06/24/2026 ET

Current
ID
Events
Lactation
Testday
Breeding
Vet Check
Genetic
Health
Protocols
Chores
Sick
Growth
Zoetis
ABS
ST Genetics
Charts

Lactation - 5

📄 Export to Excel

Lact #	Testdate	DIM	3X	Milk	% change	Fat %	Pro %	ECM	LSSCC	SCC	Lbs lost	\$ lost	305 Act Milk	305 Act Fat
5	06/24/2026	223	yes	108.9	-15.0	4.1	3.4	122	0.2	14	0	0.0	34254	1486
5	05/07/2026	175	yes	128.1	-1.4	4.5	3.4	150	0.2	14	0	0.0	33790	1506
5	04/02/2026	140	yes	129.9	-6.7	4.3	3.4	149	0.1	13	0	0.0	32523	1445
5	02/13/2026	92	yes	139.2	45.9	4.4	3.2	159	0.1	13	0	0.0	31250	1413
5	12/03/2025	20	yes	95.4	---	4.7	3.6	116	2.1	54	6	1.2	24143	1179

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Lactation - 4
▼

Lactation - 3
▼

Lactation - 2
▼

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>



HerdHQ: Backed by Data. Built for Action.

See what's happening in your herd with HerdHQ
www.drms.org/HerdHQ/What-Is-HerdHQ