"Mastitis is probably the most important health disorder on dairy farms...the most important way to continuously produce milk of good quality is to keep the mastitis situation in the herd under tight control.”

[http://nyschap.vet.cornell.edu/]
**The Disease...**

**Subclinical Mastitis**
[most common]:

hard to detect with little visible effects but it decreases the potential milk production and lowers milk quality.

**Clinical Mastitis:**

udders become red, swollen, and cause discomfort leading to decreased milk production. It can cause permanent damage to the udders. The result is poor quality milk: changed appearance and composition.


A Cornell study found that each year the average farm would encounter mastitis 20-25 vv times per 100 cows.

[http://nyschap.vet.cornell.edu]

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**The price you pay...**

- Loss of milk production
- Infected or treated milk cannot be sold
- Culling and replacing cows
- Labor for treatment and management
- Veterinary bills

**ANTIBIOTICS**

*Antibiotics should always be given in proper dosage, with attention to withdrawal periods*

[**[a typical treatment:**]

1. teat is cleaned and antibiotics are injected into the gland
2. oxytocin is given to remove unwanted milk
3. in cases of chronic mastitis the cow is culled

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In 2002-2003 it was approximated that dairy farmers were paying an average of $97 per mastitis case. More than half of that cost was from discarded milk—a preventable loss.

Wisconsin-madison

Pamela L. Ruegg, DVM, MPVM

“The most effective treatment strategies include early detection, presumed identification of mastitis pathogens and the use of antibiotics for an appropriate duration for the expected pathogen.”

Dr. Pamela L. Ruegg, DVM, MPVM