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## Mastitis, a challenge in the dairy farm industry - what's next?

The role of diagnostics in economically treating cows

Treatments and Prevention

25 April 2023

Diagnostics

③ 3 minute read

മ By: Zoetis

Mastitis

To date, mastitis is still a subject prevailing in the dairy farm industry, as it affects dairy cow's health and ultimately milk production. A high percentage of cows infected with mastitis, an infection of the milk-producing mammary glands, is one of the most prevalent and costly diseases in farms, as it could cause decreased milk production, and increase probability of a mastitis outbreak on the farm.

As farm handling and the milking process involves sharing of equipment used for the dairy cattle, the bacteria spreads easily. Cows infected with mastitis need antibiotics treatment, and this will result in their milk not being suitable for human consumption.

The amount of milk production lost can vary depending on breed, parity, herd size and region, but in general it is about a 2.5% drop [1]. With mastitis affecting dairy cows, it will be a challenge to meet the growing global demand for milk which is expected to increase by 4.3% in 2024 [2]. Even though milk supply comes from buffalo, goat, sheep and camels too, 81% of the world's milk production is from cows [3].

Best practice guidelines provided for dairy farmers may help with mastitis issues to a certain extent, but ultimately it is imperative

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