

# Hospital Lists Treat Cows Correctly

*Make treatment protocols specific to the cow for most success*

*By Dr. Frank Welcome and Jack VanAlmelo*

Just as much planning and discipline are needed in creating the sick cow program as in any of the other critical functions on the dairy.

A strong dairy herd hospital program is built on clearly defined diagnosis protocols that correspond with specific treatment protocols. The final ingredient is a good daily hospital list in the hands of staff trained at following the protocols. When it all comes together well, animals are treated appropriately even if key staff takes a day off.

Just as much planning and discipline are needed in creating the sick cow program as in any of the other critical functions on the dairy. High quality rations; clean, comfortable living space; consistent, carefully planned milking routines and a strong hospital program make for a healthy, productive herd.

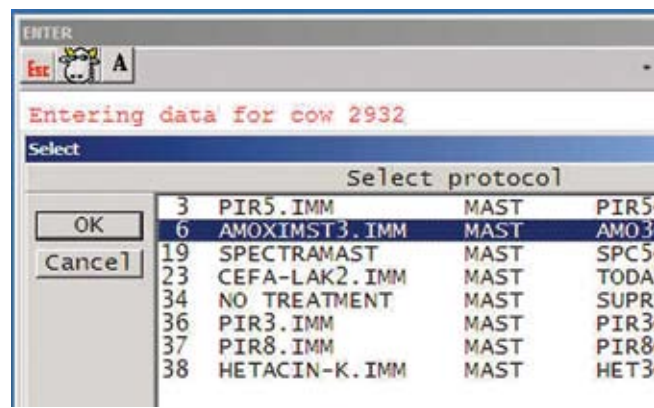
Dairy Comp 305 has integrated protocol and hospital list routines that track milk and beef withholding dates, last treatment dates and even follow up “check” dates. All the dairy must add the protocols and a commitment to follow them.

A sample hospital list, like the one below, prints automatically every morning. It includes every animal in the hospital pen as well as cows due for a follow-up check (CKDAT) today. Cow 58 in pen 5 was blocked on her left hind quarter and is on the list for a two-week check. Cow 2932 is on day 1 of 3 of an AMO3 protocol for her left hind quarter. Her OK to beef date (BFDAT) is Feb. 17, milk withholding date (MKDAT) is Feb.8. Her last treatment date (LTDAT) on this protocol will be Feb. 6.

**Hospital (and check) List**

ID	CKDAT	DIM	PPEN	PEN	REM	BFDAT	MKDAT	LTDAT	NOTE	ID
58	2/ 2/06	180	5	5	BLK2WKLH	8/18	-	-		58
2390	-	150	2	10	SPC5LH	9/ 7	2/ 6	2/2 1/29	MAST SPC5LH	2392 5:5
2932	-	222	5	10	AMO3LH	2/17	2/ 8	2/ 6 2/ 2	MAST AMO3LH	2932 1:3
2989	-	133	5	10	PIR5LH	2/16	2/ 9	2/ 6 2/ 2 2/ 2	MAST PIR5LH CULTURE LABA/LH	2989 1:5 1:3

When multiple protocols are active for an animal they are all listed. Cow 2989 has started a mastitis protocol and also a culture protocol. A milk culture sample was sent to the lab for an aerobic culture from the left hind teat. When the results are available they will automatically download into this



**When we report a mastitis or any disease for an animal, a list of protocols defined by the farm and its veterinarian appears.**

farm’s cow records. When we report a mastitis or any disease event for an animal, a list of all of the protocols defined by the farm and its veterinarian appears. Each of the protocols listed above would also have a corresponding page in the farm’s protocol book that spells out the details of how to administer the treatment.

Assigning a cow to the most appropriate treatment protocol requires some additional information. The first consideration may be the severity of infection. Several diagnostic protocols allow a hospital pen manager to classify a case of mastitis as mild, moderate or severe.

The other impor-