

The recurrence of mycoplasma mastitis investigated by bulk tank analysis

V. Punyapornwithaya*, L. K. Fox, D. D. Hancock, J. M. Gay
College of Veterinary Medicine, Washington State University

The objective of this study was to determine the epidemiology of the recurrence of mycoplasma mastitis as determined by culture of bulk milk. Forty farms that had *Mycoplasma spp.* cultured from bulk tank milk samples were investigated for 1 year by further monitoring bulk tank milk to determine the prevalence and recurrence of this agent. Enrolled dairies had at least 5 bulk tank milk sample cultures during the study. Bulk milk samples collected within the same month from 10 farms after the first positive culture were evaluated for *Mycoplasma spp.* Milk samples were plated on mycoplasma agar and incubated at 37 °C with 10% CO₂ for 7 days. The percentage of farms with a recurrence of mycoplasma mastitis was 57.5% (n=23/40). The mean number of recurrences within 1 year was 2.45. Bulk milk samples from 4 herds that were examined in the same month of a first positive culture of *Mycoplasma spp.* were negative at the second test, as opposed to the 6 herds also tested twice in the same month that remained positive. This study suggested that the prevalence of recurrence infection of mycoplasma mastitis was greater than 50%. Cultures of bulk tank milk can be used to monitor mycoplasma mastitis which may help dairy managers control the disease.

Keywords:

Mycoplasma spp.

Mastitis

Recurrence