

## **Assessing the risk factors for udder health & milk quality in your Herd**

In various countries there are tests where the dairy farmer (self assessment) or an external professional organization, try to assess the risk of udder health and milk quality.

Enclosed is an example of a self assessment test :-

**Score between 1(low) to 5 (high), in order to get an assessment of the present state of your herd.**

	<b>Question</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>1</b>	Are you one of the milkers at least once a day?	
<b>2</b>	Do your milkers speak your home language and understand the work procedures and cow "markings" in your herd?	
<b>3</b>	Are your cows free of manure on the flanks, udders and legs all year round?	
<b>4</b>	Is there a full hygienic milking procedure including milking with disposable gloves?	
<b>5</b>	Is your milking machine regularly serviced according to a certified service protocol?	
<b>6</b>	Are sheds bedded according to the condition of the cows/shed?	
<b>7</b>	Are teats pre/post dipped or sprayed with a certified product with the proper concentration and pH?	
<b>8</b>	Is there a separate clean maternity pen for cows to calve?	
<b>9</b>	Is the colostrum separated from the bulk tank according to local specifications?	
<b>10</b>	Is there a written protocol for mastitis treatment provided by and monitored by your veterinarian?	
<b>11</b>	Is your veterinarian involved in udder health procedures?	
<b>12</b>	Do you take proper dry cow treatment procedures and precautions?	
<b>13</b>	Are mastitic and high SCC cows cultured and tested at a certified laboratory all year round?	
<b>14</b>	Are all incidents of udder health recorded (diagnosis, treatment, culling)?	
<b>15</b>	Do cows have at least 15 sq/m under roof (not free stalls)?	
<b>16</b>	Are dry cows marked with a conspicuous marking, and separated far from the milking cows until calving?	
<b>17</b>	Do you use an on farm test for antibiotics before sending milk from treated cows?	
<b>18</b>	Do cows get added Vit. E and Selenium during the dry period?	
	<b>Total</b>	

### **Assessment :-**

**75 – 90 - Your udder health and milk quality is excellent – carry on with your good work.**

**60 – 75 – Place for improvement – take note of scores less than 3.**

**50 – 60 – Your herd is susceptible to risks. It is recommended to reassess your working procedures.**

**< 50 – Seek professional help immediately !!! too many risk factors.**