



# Northwest Veterinary Associates, Inc.

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## Milk Residue Testing Options *Prepared by Dr. Tom Linden*

Recently I've been having some conversations about on-farm options for sampling cows to see if they can go back into the tank after being treated. Some of you out there are already utilizing these tests, but for those that aren't, here is a list of possible options: Delvotest P, Charm 3 SL3, and SNAP Beta-Lactam ST. All 3 can test raw milk and report results within 3-6 minutes. Some of these options may also require mixing the milk with a solution, or a brand specific incubator to run the test.

All these brands look for beta-lactam drugs. Examples include penicillins (penicillin G, Polymast), cephalosporins (ToMORROW, ToDAY), ampicillin (Polyflex), ceftiofur (Ceftiflex, Excenel, Excede, Spectramast), cloxacillin (Dariclox). Each brand varies a little bit in which of those categories they test for, and your herd veterinarian/Veterinarian of Record (VOR) would be a good reference for deciphering the available options.

Be aware, none of the on-farm brands I have listed above test for other common drugs we use, such as flunixin (Banamine), lincosamide (Pirsue), and oxytetracycline (LA-200). In these cases, you must follow on label instructions for milk withholding! Your herd veterinarian/VOR will provide this information in written treatment protocols.

Of course, the alternate option would be to carefully document when cows are treated, and when they reach the required milk withholding date, they may go back in the tank without utilizing any testing. Our advice on this is to remember that when drug withholding times are calculated by companies it is done so using healthy cows. Sick cows often clear drugs at slower rates than healthy cows, so it is always advisable to err on the side of caution and consider adding additional time to the recommended label withholding. Label withhold times are often extended when using drugs in an extra-label manner. Your herd veterinarian/VOR will provide this information in written treatment protocols.

Regardless of what option your farm utilizes, the most important parts of the equation are maintaining a valid Veterinary Client Patient Relationship and, if I haven't driven it home enough already, having routine conversations with your herd veterinarian/VOR about treatment decisions and residue withdrawal times!

Among the significant changes to version 4.0 are:

- **Tail docking** will no longer be considered an acceptable practice in U.S. dairy farming. If tail docking is being conducted on a dairy farm, immediate action must be taken to cease the practice.
- **Mandatory Corrective Action Plans (MCAP)** will be required, with compliance met within 9 months, for several practices relating to:
  - o Veterinary involvement and herd health plans
  - o Pre-weaned calf management practices (including disbudding horn by 8 weeks of age with appropriate pain management, and providing access to feed and water by the third day of life)
  - o Non-ambulatory animal management practices
  - o Euthanasia practices

Failure to comply with MCAP specifications for any of these practices within 9 months will result in temporary, "Conditional Certification" for 60 days. If compliance still is not met in that timeframe, the dairy operation will be classified "Conditionally Decertified," and FARM Animal Care Participant processors will not be allowed to procure milk from these operations and remain in good standing with FARM.

More detailed documentation of the updates to FARM 4.0 can be accessed at: <https://nationaldairyfarm.com/farm-animal-care-version-4-0/>

In addition to animal care standards, FARM also recently has published new Workforce Development tools, including a Safety Reference Manual and a Human Resources Reference Manual. Both modules and accompanying templates were developed to help dairy producers create safer, more professional and sustainable work experiences. The materials, many of which are available in both English and Spanish, can be found at: <https://nationaldairyfarm.com/producer-resources/worker-safety-human-resources/>

### New Product: Nasalgen 3 (coming soon)

Merck Animal Health has launched Nasalgen 3, an intranasal respiratory vaccination that provides three-way protection against the most common pneumonia-causing viral pathogens (IBR, BRSV, PI3). Similar to the Inforce 3 intranasal vaccine by Zoetis, Merck's Nasalgen 3 is proven safe for use in pregnant cows and in calves nursing pregnant cows, as well as young calves. The vaccine is available in 2-mL, 20-mL and 100-mL packages.

Merck's Nasalgen 3 has some unique properties. First, it is designed with an IBR strain that is not temperature-sensitive, so the vaccine will replicate and protect in a moderate to high temperature environment. "If producers are working cattle in warm temperatures, Nasalgen 3 will still replicate," says Dr. Nordstrom. "The IBR antigen elicits a rapid interferon response as well, which provides non-specific protection against many viruses." Second, the vaccine contains a blue shadow dye that clearly indicates which animals have been vaccinated.



To learn more visit [Nasalgen.com](http://Nasalgen.com)