

Historically, Texas has higher somatic cell counts (SCC) in the summer. Note the table below from the Market Administrator with August and September having the highest SCC counts for Texas. Although late lactation cows may be a contributing factor to high SCC, continue practicing mastitis control measures. Check that milking standard operating procedures are being followed. Evaluate whether milkers adequately cover the teats pre- and post-milking with an appropriate teat sanitizer.

TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO MARKET COMPONENT TEST										
Month	Butterfat		Protein		Other Solids		S-N-E		SCC ^{a/}	
	TX	NM	TX	NM	TX	NM	TX	NM	TX	NM
May 2005	3.61	3.48	3.02	2.94	5.71	5.74	8.73	8.68	300	244
June	3.57	3.41	2.97	2.90	5.72	5.75	8.69	8.65	332	248
July	3.59	3.43	2.98	2.88	5.70	5.74	8.68	8.62	347	252
August	3.63	3.47	3.01	2.91	5.71	5.75	8.73	8.66	365	275
September	3.69	3.52	3.07	2.97	5.68	5.72	8.75	8.69	366	270
October	3.76	3.60	3.14	3.06	5.70	5.73	8.84	8.79	337	254
November	3.87	3.70	3.18	3.11	5.70	5.72	8.88	8.84	293	228
December	3.93	3.76	3.18	3.12	5.71	5.73	8.89	8.84	269	212
Averages 2005	3.71	3.57	3.08	3.00	5.70	5.73	8.78	8.73	325	262
January 2006	3.85	3.72	3.12	3.07	5.70	5.72	8.82	8.78	257	209
February	3.84	3.68	3.10	3.06	5.72	5.71	8.82	8.76	248	201
March	3.77	3.63	3.06	3.03	5.71	5.69	8.76	8.72	249	198
April	3.70	3.57	3.00	2.97	5.70	5.70	8.70	8.66	254	202
May	3.65	3.52	3.02	2.97	5.73	5.74	8.76	8.71	262	196

a/ In thousands.

And don't forget about milker's comfort in the parlor. Provide a fan or some other way to make it more comfortable in the pit during milking. Hot parlors are not conducive to proper milking procedures.

These are but a few of the proactive measures you should evaluate before you get hit with the summer heat.

October 2005