



Missouri Dairy Couple Embraces CoPulsation

Cory and Beth Stacey of Ash Grove, MO milk 150 cows, two-thirds of them Jerseys, the rest Jersey/Holstein cross-breds. Until February 2008 they were plagued with high somatic cell counts (SCC), most due to *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria. During the summer of 2007 their veterinarian made a custom vaccine in an attempt to immunize against the *S. aureus*. This effort proved unsuccessful. During February of last year, on a long-shot bet, and out of frustration, he “Googled” (i.e., ran an Internet search on their computer), using the term “staph mastitis.” One or two “links” later, Cory stumbled into the CoPulsationWeb site, and began studying what LR Gehm LLC had to offer.

On March 1, 2008 the Staceys installed the CoPulsation Milking System. Although cows immediately seemed more comfortable being milked, it took about six weeks before SCC actually dropped from 500,000 to 250,000. Cows that were infected with *S. aureus* never entirely get over it and continue to drag the herd SCC higher than it should be. But, Cory is adamant: no new *S. aureus* cases have appeared since March 1, 2008. He admits that problem cows will have to be weeded out. But up till this change-over in milking systems, they were running cull rates around 40%, and buying expensive replacements. With that level of turn-over, Cory says, “we were headed for train wreck.” As they weed out the last of the *Staph. aureus* cows, SCC continues to drop, and both cows and people enjoy the milking operation now. Cory says that before CoPulsation they always worried, as cows walked into the barn, that “we’d spot another animal with a blown-up quarter.” Those worries are gone.