A high Somatic Cell Count (SCC) is an indication of mastitis. Somatic Cells include a combination of white blood cells and epithelial cells which are produced in the udder of a cow infected with mastitis. The level of cells correlates with the level of infection. You are strongly advised to:

- Obtain individual cow SCC results on a regularly scheduled basis;
- Consult your veterinarian to discuss milking practices and additional testing options;
- Have your equipment dealer test the milking equipment to ensure that it is in proper working condition.

The following checklist is similar to the one used by FSR’s for farm evaluations. You should investigate each of the potential problem areas to avoid additional penalties in the future.

**Services/Consultations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are individual cow SCC reports received and reviewed?</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is there regular veterinarian consultation?</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were culture/sensitivity tests done in the last 12 months?</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are clinical/visual mastitis cases recorded?</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has there been an Udder Health Specialist visit within the past year?</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the milking system serviced at least yearly?</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the CMT paddle used and used properly?</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Milking Management Practices**

- Are purchased cows segregated? 
- Are high SCC cows marked/banded and milked last/separately? 
- Are cow udders clean & clipped? 
- Is the number of milking units per person manageable? 
- Is the fresh cow milking unit clean/good condition? 
- Are milkers hands cleaned before milking/use gloves? 
- Are udders washed & dried with individual towels? 
- Are udders pre-dipped and wiped with individual towels? 
- Is adequate udder stimulation time provided (20-30 seconds)? 
- Is unit attached at milk letdown (within 60 seconds)? 
- Is routine machine stripping minimized? 
- Is milking unit removed when milk flow stops? 
- Is vacuum shut off before unit removed and teat dip applied immediately? 
- Are teat ends abnormal/damaged/injured? 
- Do you dry-cow treat all cows with approved products? 
- Is dry cow housing and maternity pen clean & dry?