

## Fact sheet

# CLINICAL MASTITIS GRADING

Good udder health in your herd requires thorough and efficient mastitis management. Identifying the cases of mastitis according to severity makes it easier to select the correct cows for antibiotic treatment.

Mastitis can be categorized into mild, moderate and severe cases:

### MILD CASES

In mild cases of mastitis, there are visible changes in the milk. However, the cow's udder is soft and the cow generally seems unaffected. That is, it has a normal appetite and is unaffected by the mastitis.

### MODERATE CASES

In moderate cases of mastitis, there are visible changes in the milk. The cow's udder is swollen but the cow generally seems unaffected. It has a normal appetite, however, sometimes the milk yield is moderately reduced.

### SEVERE CASES

In severe cases of mastitis, there are visible changes in the milk and the cow's udder is swollen. The cow is systemically affected. It has a loss of appetite and the milk yield is severely reduced. In other words, the cow is ill with mastitis and requires extra care.

**Confirm with the vet how to manage the different cases of severity, how to treat the individual case and how to follow up.**

## NOT SEVERE CASES

**1 = MILD**



- 1** CHANGES IN THE MILK  
The milk is watery and has flakes or clots.

**1 + 2 = MODERAT**



- 2** CHANGES IN THE UDDER  
Signs of inflammation: the udder is swollen, warm, hard, red or painful

## SEVERE CASES

**1 + 2 + 3 = SEVERE**



- 3** CHANGES IN THE COW  
Fever, reduced yield, loss of appetite, possibly sunken eyes, diarrhea and dehydration. In other words, the cow is sick.