

# EXPERIENCE OF STARTVAC® USE ON A DAIRY FARM IN SOUTHERN UKRAINE

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## OBJECTIVE

The main objective of this study was to evaluate the use of STARTVAC® in controlling mastitis and improving milk quality as part of a control plan.

## INTRODUCTION

In the past few years, milk quality has become more of an overall concern for consumers. In general, people are more willing to pay for good hygiene and quality products. This concern comes along with the concern of the milk industry that set criteria when buying the raw milk directly from producers. In order for producers to be paid a higher price for their milk, the somatic cell count (SCC) level in tanks should be < 400,000 cells/ml (may depend on the country or on the buyer company). A further overall concern for milk producers is the risk of antibiotic residues in milk related with a high incidence of mastitis cases and high number of antibiotic treatments. Bovine mastitis vaccination can help in improving herd health and milk quality and in reducing the use of antibiotic treatments. Furthermore, there is a European program in force to reduce the use of antibiotic treatment in Veterinary Medicine.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

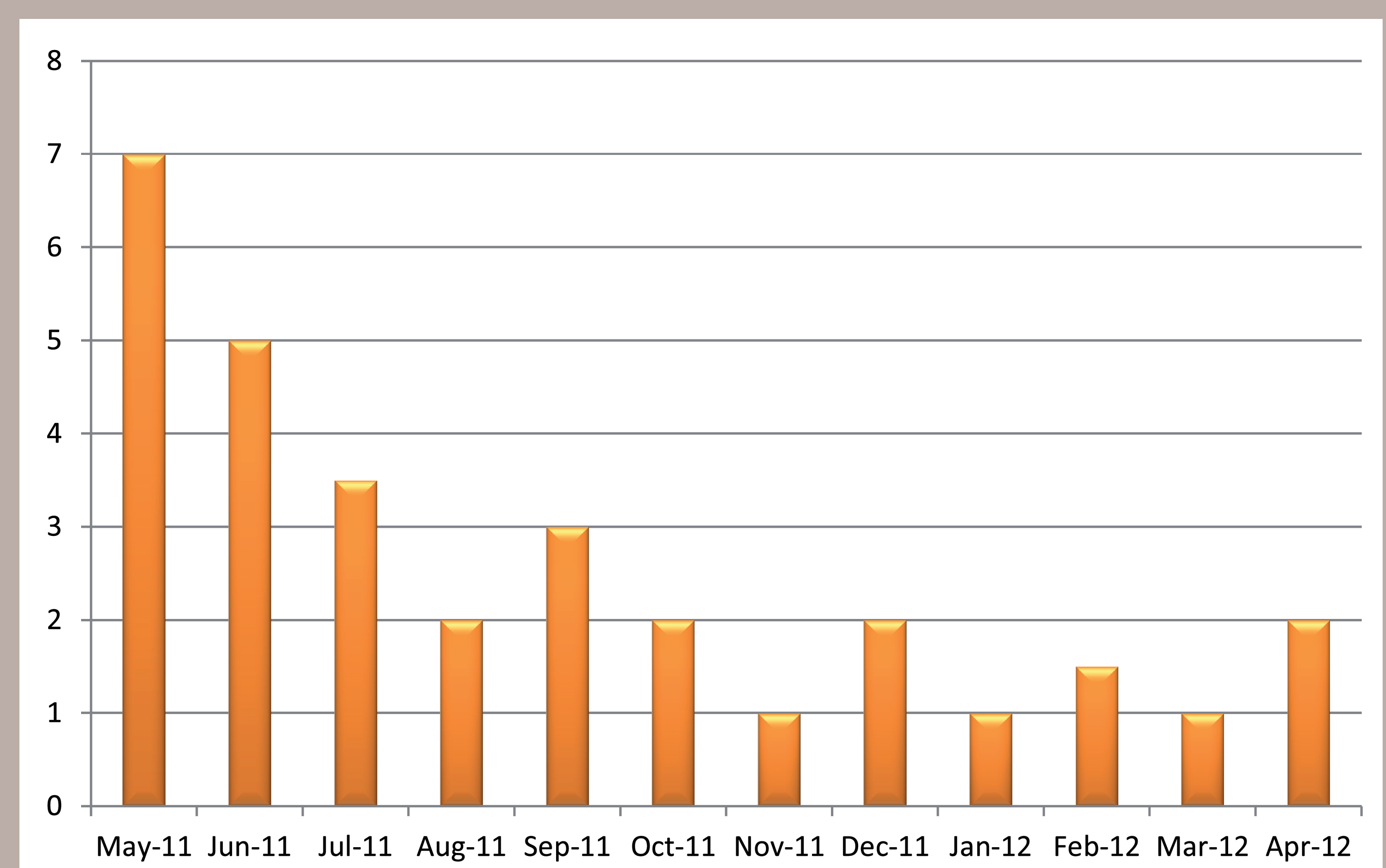
In 2011 the total number of milking cows was 610. Cows were milked 3 times a day and the milking parlor consisted of 2x12 points (Westfalia Surge). Annual milk production in 2010 per cow was 6492 Kg. In the first half of 2011, the average daily milk yield per cow was 22 Kg. The fat in milk was 4.1% and protein 3.2%. Vaccination (STARTVAC®) started on May 2011 according to the manufacturer's (HIPRA) indications: the first inoculation was applied 45d before calving, the second inoculation 10d before calving and the third inoculation 62d after the second inoculation IM. One year follow up was done.



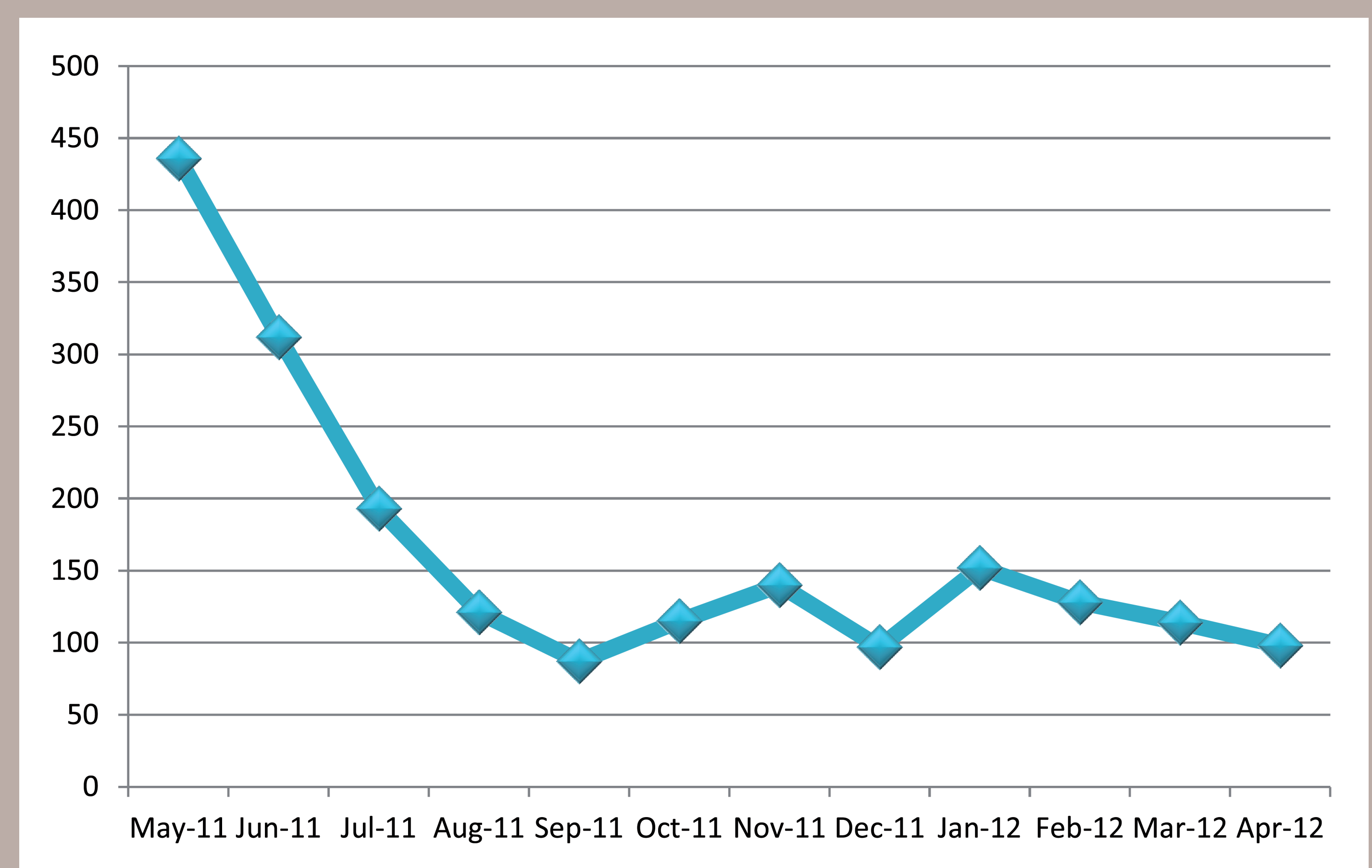
## RESULTS

After the vaccination period, SCC decreased from 436,000 to 96,000 cells/ml. The clinical mastitis cases in heifers were null and subclinical mastitis cases occurred in 2 animals in a mild form. The number of clinical mastitis cases decreased from 7 to 2 per month. Average milk production increased by 0.8 Kg.

**Figure 1.** Number of clinical mastitis cases per month.



**Figure 2.** Evolution of the SCC (x 1,000 cells/ml).



## CONCLUSIONS

The use of STARTVAC® has significantly reduced the incidence of clinical and subclinical mastitis, increased milk quality, which in turn has significantly reduced the economic losses due to treatments of animals and discarded milk. Udder health had also been improved after the vaccination program.