



VPP Beef Niche Market Cow earns a premium - BCS #3

**DQC**  
Dairy Quality Center  
a Division of Agri-Education, Inc.

# BEEF TRIM



Unworthy of selling into the VPP Beef Niche Market - BCS #1

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Southwest Region

## A Look Inside To Learn About Your Cow's Health

What's inside the cow can reveal what you are losing at the dairy. At the harvest facility you can learn a lot about your cow's health. One example is if she has a fatty liver or has liver abscesses - this is a sure sign that she was not producing the quantity of VPP milk possible to make you money.

Liver problems identified at the packer mean a loss to the packing facility but more importantly reduced feed intake, lower carcass yields, and reduced milk production for you. Acidosis can become an issue with your cows typically, in early to mid lactation. Be alert to work with your veterinarian to identify cows with rumen issues and ask your nutritionist to provide feeding strategies to reduce unstable gut environments.

Some of the outward signs could be going off feed, rapid decline in milk production, diarrhea and others. Indigestion for your cows can quickly mean indigestion for you too.

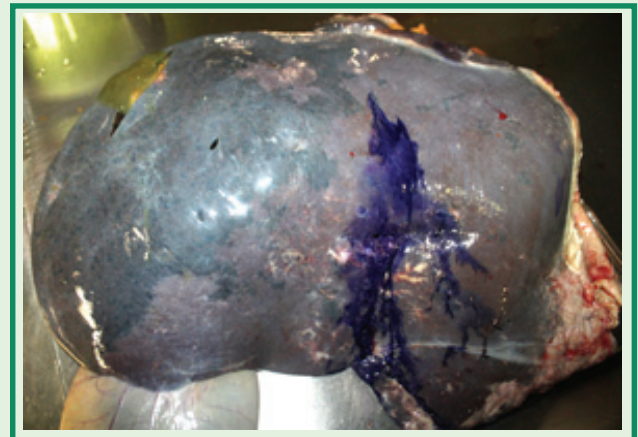
Maintaining the energy balance in your transition cows does have a long term impact on your herd. Abscesses, lesions in the rumen and scars can be

as common as being present in 32% of Holstein cows at slaughter. Approximately 50% of those cows' livers are condemned.

It will take team work - who checks the dry matter for changes? Who checks the mixer to make sure worn parts are replaced? Is feed bunk management reviewed? Keeping all the cows healthy and disease free takes a team. Ask your Veterinarian and nutritionist to discuss these concerns and line up a training session to keep employees sharp to identify animal symptoms when observing animals. Be sure to note and share condemnation reports from the packer to make changes and improve your herd health. Verified Premium Plus dairies work to make changes at the dairy to improve marketing advantages for you and your brand!



Healthy Liver



Unhealthy Liver

