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## **Veterinary Milk Quality Experts unite at 9<sup>th</sup> Annual European Mastitis Panel Meeting to Discuss Udder Health and Dairy Industry Challenges**

MADISON, N.J., June 8, 2016 – On May 4-6, 2016, MSD Animal Health hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> annual European Mastitis Panel (EMP) meeting in Azores, Portugal, bringing together EMP members, who are established experts in the field, and veterinarians to discuss udder health and milk quality in dairy cattle– topics that remain important to the industry, despite the challenges of decreasing milk prices throughout Europe.

The objectives of the EMP meetings are to improve mastitis knowledge between local experts in EU countries. Each year, a different European country hosts the meeting and discussions involve udder health and industry challenges, with the opportunity for the hosting country to showcase their dairy industry and local research.

At this year’s meeting, research presentations focused on the host country, Portugal, and dairy topics covered included milk quality, antimicrobial resistance and intramammary infections. A highlight of the meeting was the opportunity to visit local dairy farms to understand traditional milking methods of the Azores region, including the impact cattle’s diet and living conditions have on the quality of milk produced.

At the previous meeting in Spain, the EMP group has decided to embark on collaborating more in research which has already resulted in a recent publication about antibiotic sensitivity of *Mycoplasma bovis* in *Journal of Dairy Science* (99:1–7): “In vitro antimicrobial susceptibility of *Mycoplasma bovis* isolates identified in milk from dairy cattle in Belgium, Germany, and Italy”.

This year, the EMP decided to collaborate on an EU project to find relationships between clinical, genetic and epidemiological characteristics of bacterial strains of *Staphylococcus aureus* in the different countries.

Veterinarians and EMP members continue to focus on finding solutions to the challenges they face in the dairy cattle industry with mastitis and milk quality. The EMP tries to represent as many EU countries as possible in order to improve quality of discussion and has recently welcomed Hungary and Poland, the latter country hosting next year's meeting, as new members.

### **About MSD Animal Health**

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