Factors Affecting Lactoferrin Concentration in Bovine Milk. By Cheng et al., page 970.

Lactoferrin is an iron-binding glycoprotein that plays a key role in the defense of the mammary gland. Lactoferrin concentrations were examined in milk with different levels of somatic cell score. Lactoferrin concentration of normal bovine milk was associated with the stage of lactation and daily milk production, but not with parity. Lactoferrin tended to be correlated with somatic cell score. The relationship indicates that milk lactoferrin concentration may be helpful as an index for intramammary infection in dairy cows.