Relationships Between Somatic Cell Count and Intramammary Infection in Buffaloes. By Moroni et al., page 998. Quarter milk samples were taken monthly from 46 buffaloes on 2 Italian farms. Samples were cultured for bacteria and tested for concentrations of somatic cells, fat, and protein. Daily milk yield also was recorded. Sixty-three percent of samples were positive for the presence of bacteria and staphylococcus species were most common. Somatic cell counts were clearly elevated in infected quarters, but lower than generally seen in bovine milk. No large reduction in yield was observed for infected cows.