

Mastitis Prevention in Wet Conditions

1

Wash and Dry All Teats

- Before putting cups on, all dirty teats should be washed with low pressure water and then dried with one piece of paper towel per cow.
- Do not place cups on wet teats, even clean ones – wet teats can cause cups to crawl up teats reducing milk drainage and damaging teat ends. Droplets of dirty water at the teat end can enter the teat end when cups are applied to wet teats

2

Cover All Teats with Teat Disinfectant after Milking

- The whole surface of the teat skin of every teat must be covered with teat disinfectant after milking.
- Ensure your coverage of teat disinfectant is getting the front aspect of each teat that you can't see as well as the back aspect that you can see – 100% cover.
- If you are not using a Ready-To-Use teat disinfectant product then check you are actually mixing the appropriate amounts of concentrate and emollient (refer to product label) and you have good quality water.
- Consider changing to hand spraying/dipping at high-risk times if you normally use an automatic teat sprayer.

3

Keep Udders Clean for 1 Hour After Milking

- If teats become dirty during the first hour after milking this increases the risk of mastitis as the teat end plug is not yet fully closed.
- Don't let cows' teats get splashed or covered in mud or let them lie down for an hour after leaving the shed.
- Avoid holding cows in yards or laneways while waiting for the rest of the herd to be milked.
- Have feeding systems in place to allow cows to stand graze/feed in as dry an area as possible after milking
- Reduce muddy areas at dairy entry and exits, laneways and feeding areas

- Scrape feed pads regularly and repair high risk areas or use electric/temporary fencing to stop cows entering or using muddy sections

4

Consider Pre-milking Teat Disinfectant

- Whilst routine pre-milking teat disinfection is not considered to be of economic benefit, research has suggested that it may reduce mastitis in circumstances of wet muddy conditions.
- Consult your milk factory before considering this as some have restricted policies regarding iodine use pre-milking.
- If you choose to do this it must be done properly – wash, dry, spray, leave for 30 secs and dry again, using a product specifically registered for pre-milking teat disinfection.
- This a more costly option so please contact us to get advice about this technique before proceeding.

5

Consider Pre-stripping Cows

- Quarter pre-stripping before cups go on at times of high risk can allow earlier detection and management of clinical cases and reduce mastitis spread.
- If clots persist for 3 or more squirts then it is treated as a clinical mastitis case.
- You can reduce the time this takes by stripping 2 quarters per cow at each milking eg front quarters in the morning, back quarters in the afternoon, or a quarter at each milking over four milkings (eg repeat quarters every 2 days).
- Always wear gloves and change gloves after detection of a clinical mastitis case.
- If you choose to do this it must be done properly so you do not spread bacteria i.e. avoid milk splashing up to udders, wash gloves when milk splashes on them, even better to spray gloves with disinfectant.