

Proper Milking Procedures

Steps to Optimize Milking Efficiency and Milk Quality



Provide a clean, safe, and stress- free environment for the cows entering the parlor.

**Process a full line of cows at a time.*



Wear gloves and wash/change them regularly during milking. Avoid milk contact on gloves; if that occurs, change them.



Pre-Dipping
Dip all four teats entirely with pre-dipping solution. Allow at least 30 seconds of contact time.



Forestripping
Strip each teat 2 to 3 times. Check for milk abnormalities such as flakes, clots, or watery appearance. Use a single-use towel to wipe each teat, using a downward twisting motion to dry and remove dirt and pre-dip solution.



Drying



Unit Attachment
Attach the unit 1 to 2 minutes after first touching the udder. Adjust the unit properly so that it hangs squarely beneath the udder.
**Re-attach units that fall off as soon as possible so cows are completely milked!*

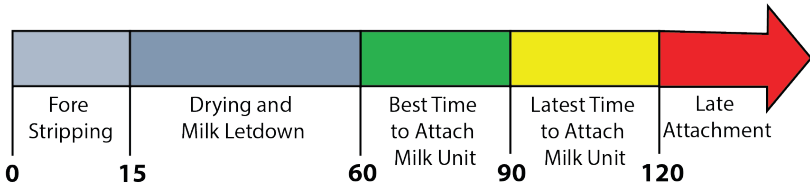


Unit Removal
Automatic take-offs release the unit when milking is finished. When removing manually, shut the vacuum off before removing unit to avoid injuries.



Post-Dipping
Dip each whole teat with post-dipping solution immediately after detaching the milking unit.

Udder Preparation and Unit Attachment Timeline (in seconds)



Other Considerations

- Minimize time in the holding area (less than 1 hour).
- Check vacuum gauge to ensure proper vacuum level before milking.
- Keep milking machines clean and free of manure! Hose machines as needed between sides, never when hanging on a cow.
- Clean/disinfect milking equipment, buckets, towels, and teat dip cups immediately after every milking.
- Warn supervisor about damaged unit liners and change them at recommended intervals.

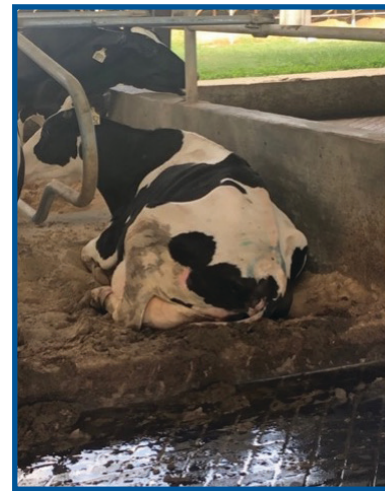
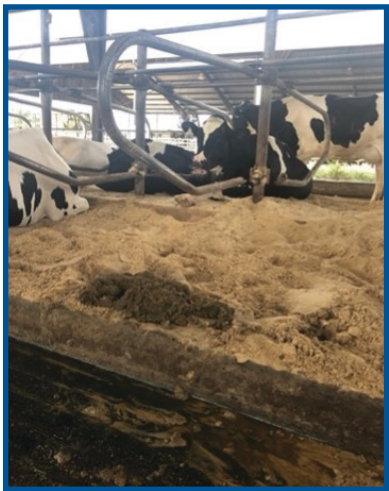
BE CONSISTENT!

ALL OPERATORS RESPONSIBLE FOR MILKING SHOULD ALWAYS FOLLOW A CONSISTENT ROUTINE AND GO THROUGH THE RECOMMENDED STEPS IN THE PROPER ORDER.

Reviewed: 08/2024

Milking Management Program: How to Optimize Milking Efficiency and Milk Quality: What We DON'T Want to See in the Barn!

Proper environmental management and cleanliness of cows are major determinants of both milking efficiency and control of intramammary infections caused by environmental pathogens.



These pictures show the presence of urine and manure in the stalls, dirty cows, and inadequate amounts of clean bedding material, which are the result of poor bedding/facilities management.

To minimize exposure to environmental pathogens and reduce the risk of mastitis development, cows, pens, and bedding materials should be kept clean and dry at all times.

Milking Management Program: How to Optimize Milking Efficiency and Milk Quality: What We DON'T Want to See in the Milking Parlor!

Proper environmental management and cleanliness of the cows, the parlor, and the milking equipment are major determinants of both milking efficiency and control of intramammary infections caused by contagious and environmental pathogens.

Presence of milk and manure in/on the teat cups.



Dip cup is not attached to the appropriate mount.



Dirty udder.



Contagious pathogens can be transferred from cow to cow during milking!

The use of gloves, pre- and post-milking disinfection of teats, single-service towels to dry teats, backflush systems, and proper washing and disinfection of milking equipment are recommended procedures to decrease the spread of contagious pathogens and occurrence of new intramammary infections.