

The Difficulties Encountered During Milking

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COMMENTARY

It stimulates and pays farmers who produce the highest valuable sort of milk for the co-op. This is especially critical as we move away from commodity items and toward high-priced products that necessitate very high-quality milk. Since the program's inception, the percentage of farmers who receive a bonus has risen to nearly 85 percent. Being there during milking is typically the best approach to investigate problems, and this was a regular aspect of the consultants' duties. During milking, investigations frequently identify the causes of difficulties, particularly with reference to milking and hygienic methods. If cows are restless in the parlour, it could be a sign of electrical issues, overcrowding, a milking equipment malfunction, or improper milking methods. Teat end damage is a big red flag that something isn't right. In problem herds, removing clusters under vacuum is still pretty prevalent. This could be due to malfunctioning shut-off valves or insufficient milking technique. Clusters should be removed and replaced without making any noise or vacuum. Otherwise, teat end injury will occur, resulting in mastitis and a high Somatic Cell Count (SCC). Teat end damage can also be caused by excessive vacuum, weak pulsation, or an insufficient milk line fall (very common).

Mastitis control hinges on preventing or limiting new infections. The following are the major practises for achieving this:

- Keep milking machines in good operating order. SCC can be reduced by dropping the vacuum level much below the required 48 kPa, according to many farmers.
- Change liners at least twice a season, and use proper milking technique and sanitation.
- After each milking, use an approved teat dip. If dipping, use 10 cc/cow/milking or 1 litre of dip per 50 cows each day. Use 15 cc/cow and spritz all around each teat if spraying. Do not dilute the dip with glycerine or any other product if it is the correct strength.
- Check to see if you have a proper sprayer that is in good operating order.
- Identify and treat new cases of mastitis with antibiotics as soon as possible.

Throughout the year, every farmer should keep an eye on SCCs. Milk recording is the only reliable method for keeping accurate herd and individual cow SCC records:

- Make proper use of dry cow treatment. To prevent the spread of bacteria, milkers should wear clean gloves.
- Keep cows and heifers safe from stray electrical and rough handling by providing a comfortable, clean, and dry environment for them indoors.
- Cows are especially vulnerable to mastitis infection in the weeks leading up to and following calving, and therefore require special care.
- Ascertain that cows receive an adequate supply of high-quality minerals and trace elements.
- Keep the milking parlour sufficiently ventilated to prevent moisture and bacterial spread.
- Teats should be treated before milking, dry wiped, and clusters disinfected between cows in problem herds.
- The preceding programme should be strictly followed by every farmer. It's critical to keep good records.

Lactation therapy

Clinical cases of mastitis can usually be cleared relatively rapidly utilising ordinary lactation tubes in normal settings. Some cows are chronically ill and cannot be healed in any way. They should be removed from the population as quickly as feasible. Repeat mastitis episodes in younger cows, particularly heifers, with SCCs beyond 250,000, should, however, be managed differently. Individual quarter testing of these animals is preferable to waiting for the dry time to lower SCCs. Once the offending quarter has been determined, a sample should be sent to your veterinarian for testing. For treating tough cases during lactation, a novel antibiotic tube with a seven-day therapy is now available.

The information provided in herd milk recording is one of the most essential aids in preventing Mastitis/SCC. For cows, the proper drying off method is critical.

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Received: November 07, 2021, **Accepted:** November 21, 2021, **Published:** November 28, 2021

Citation: Rakshitha K (2021) The Difficulties Encountered During Milking. J Adv Dairy. 9:590.

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