

MILL CREEK VETERINARY SERVICES
Herd Health Tips

Effects of restraint using self-locking stanchions in dairy cows

A recent article in the Journal of Dairy Science studied the effects of using self-locking stanchions on Holstein dairy cattle. Cows were locked 4 hours/day and compared to cows not locked up. Milk yield, SCC, and dry matter intake were unaffected by lock-up. Also no difference in health problems were noticed.

The temperature in which this study was conducted varied from cold to mild. At this range of temperatures **the use of self-locking stanchions did not appear to affect substantially the overall wellbeing of the cow.**

It is recommended to minimize cow lock-up time during extreme temperature/weather. Extended lock-up is more detrimental during hot weather than during mild or cold weather. **Minimize cow lock-ups during hot summer months to what is only needed for necessary management practices.**