

Mill Creek Veterinary Services: Herd Health Tips

Recommended Milking Procedure

(National Mastitis Council/Quality Milk Production)

1. **Remove manure** and debris, if present, from **teats only**. If wash pen is used, allow time for udders to dry (15-20 minutes) before milking.
2. **Strip** each teat:
 - a) stimulates cow through nervous and hormonal systems for rapid and effective milk let-down/oxytocin release (peak oxytocin levels approx. 1 min. after stimulation).
 - b) quick check for mastitis/abnormal milk.
 - c) removes high bacteria/high scc milk that has accumulated in teat cistern between milking.
3. **Pre-dip** with effective dip and allow at least 30 seconds contact time (optional: recommended when environmental mastitis is present in the herd/and or no wash-pen being used). This step kills bacteria on the skin surface that can enter the udder during milking and loosens manure on teats.
4. **Wipe** pre-dip off teats. Use individual paper or laundered cloth towels. This step removes pre-dip as well as loosened manure/soil on teats (especially important to wipe bottom of teat).
5. **Apply** milking machine 45-60 sec after step 2 (peak oxytocin levels and adequate pre-dip contact time).
6. Reposition machines for **proper alignment** as needed for even milk-out of quarters and reduction of liner slips.
7. **Post-dip** teat with an effective teat dip. This kills bacteria left on teat surface after milking and can protect teat from further bacterial contamination after milking.

Goal: milk clean, dry, well stimulated teats

- *latex or nitril gloves are recommended for milkers hands
- *if no wash-pen is used and/or teats are especially dirty, pre-dip before stripping to allow longer contact time and massage teats while stripping to loosen soil on teats.
- *develop a consistent and effective routine for your barn (consult your veterinarian)
- *properly stimulated teats and consistent milking routines result in more rapid and complete milkout of udders, increasing parlor throughput and milk-flow.

CONSULT YOUR VETERINARIAN WITH ANY QUESTIONS