

MILKING AND MASTITIS MANAGEMENT

On-farm Coach – Session 2

SESSION 2: POST MILKING TEAT DISINFECTION (MUST DO)

Instructions:

Complete “Post milking teat disinfection” online module on Enlight.

Print this page for use during the second on-farm coaching session – use the below to as a guide for your coaching.

Preparing the dairy and bringing the cows in

- ☐ Supervise employee undertaking tasks from previous on-farm coaching session.

Work Health and Safety (WHS) in the dairy

- ☐ Discuss prevention of zoonotic diseases. Discuss if your herd is up to date with 7-in-1 vaccinations and if the employee is vaccinated for Q Fever*.
- ☐ Supervise employee putting on Personal Protective equipment (PPE) required for milking (e.g. rubber boots, apron, milking gloves). Ensure they understand why they are wearing it.

Post-milking teat disinfection

- ☐ Observe with the employee the variation in normal udder appearance. For example, compare the appearance of the udder of young cows, older cows and any cows with uneven quarters.
- ☐ Demonstrate how to hold teat spray wand and how to check spray pattern on a dry wall or paper towel. Adjust nozzle if required to ensure patten is not “hollow”.
- ☐ Demonstrate how to apply teat disinfection, including:
 - Checking for signs of danger (e.g. stepping/kicking)
 - Holding the tail out of the way
 - Watching the teats while spraying
 - Ensuring all surfaces of the teats are covered.
- ☐ Demonstrate checking of effective teat spray coverage using the “paper towel test”.
- ☐ Supervise employee applying teat disinfection to at least 20 cows. Conduct regular paper towel checks to check coverage. Provide feedback as required.

Appropriate water use in the dairy and around cows

- ☐ Discuss and demonstrate keeping milking area clean whilst making appropriate use of water around the cows. This includes ensuring all steps are taken to minimise splashing of water and manure onto the udder.

* Encourage the employee to speak with their doctor about Q Fever vaccination if they are not vaccinated.

SESSION 2: COACHING QUESTIONS (OPTIONAL)

The following are some suggested discussion points from the online module to have with your employee.

Questions	Suggested answers
Describe what signs would indicate you need to be more cautious about approaching a cow to teat spray?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cow agitated, stepping or kicking • Cow watching you with her head down (not eating) • Moving around quickly within the bail • Urinating or passing manure
Why is Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) important in the dairy shed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing spread of infection between cows • Easy to clean off any contamination • Gloves carry less bacteria than hands but still need to keep clean! • Reducing spread of infection from cows to us, protect against urine splashes (Leptospirosis risk), manure contamination.
How can you prevent contracting a zoonoses?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoonoses are infections that can be transmitted from cows to humans • Two important zoonoses are Leptospirosis ('Lepto') and Q Fever • Wearing PPE and avoiding urine and manure splashes helps to reduce the spread • Up to date vaccinations of the herd with 7-in-1 helps to prevent Leptospirosis • Vaccination of people helps to prevent Q Fever
Why is teat disinfection a critical process in milking cows?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two main reasons for teat disinfection are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To kill bacteria on the teats that are spread during milking • To moisturise the teat skin (no oil glands)
How might you tell if you are doing a good job of teat spraying?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watch while treat spraying • Look from the side if that is possible in the dairy • Take the time to look as the cows exit • Paper towel test

Starting to learn the next task – Cups Off – should only occur when the employee is demonstrating skills in post-milking teat disinfection