

MILKING AND MASTITIS MANAGEMENT

On-farm Coach – Session 5

SESSION 5: DETECTING CLINICAL MASTITIS (MUST DO)

Instructions:

Complete “Detecting clinical mastitis” online module on Enlight.

Print this page for use during the fifth on-farm coaching session (completed prior to Skills Check).

Print out “Milking and Mastitis Management Skills Check” – download from Enlight.

Milking

- Supervise employee undertaking tasks from previous on-farm coaching sessions.

Signs of clinical mastitis

- Discuss how to tell if a cow has clinical mastitis, including:
 - Cow changes (e.g. walking abnormally, sick, off-feed, kicking, stepping)
 - Udder changes (e.g. swelling, heat, redness, pain)
 - Milk changes (e.g. abnormal milk, watery, clots)
- Point out the features of a cow with clinical mastitis (if you have one).

Detecting clinical mastitis

- Demonstrate how to strip milk from a cow.
- Supervise employee stripping milk from at least 5 cows.
- Discuss the importance of keeping milking gloves clean and farm protocols for disinfecting milking gloves when stripping cows or finding a cow with mastitis.
- Discuss what to do if the employee finds a cow with clinical mastitis.

Last session skills check:

A skills check will be completed once the employee has completed each online module and on-farm coaching session.

This can be completed at the fifth on-farm coaching session or later if the employee requires more guidance on any tasks.

The skills check requires the on-farm coach to:

1. Observe the employee doing each task
2. Mark the employee’s performance as satisfactory or unsatisfactory
3. Complete the checklist
4. Sign and date the checklist

The skills check is then given to the employee for their reflection and records and should be regularly re-evaluated.

SESSION 5: COACHING QUESTIONS (OPTIONAL)

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

Questions	Suggested answers
Why is it important to find a cow with clinical mastitis as soon as possible?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To start treatment sooner, improve the chances of cure and minimise her risk of being culled• To avoid milk going into the vat and causing milk quality problems• To minimise spread to other cows in the herd• Cows with clinical mastitis send a lot of white blood cells into the milk which causes a rise in Bulk Milk Cell Count (BMCC)• The BMCC is a test done every collection by the milk factory.• Most factories will discount payment for milk with a BMCC above 250,000 cells/ml.
Why should we try to avoid getting milk on our gloves when stripping cows to check for clinical mastitis?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Milk from mastitis cows contains bacteria which can be spread on gloves to other cows during milking• Keeping milk off our gloves reduces the risk of spread of mastitis• Disinfecting gloves with 70% alcohol or iodine between cows or after a certain number of cows will reduce risk.