

## Factsheet - Mastitis control in wet conditions

**On days that are WET or MUDDY you must change your milking routine. You may need an extra person in the shed.**

### 1. WASH, DISINFECT and DRY TEATS before cups go on

WASH – If there is mud/manure on the teat surfaces, mastitis-causing bacteria are more likely to enter the teat during milking. DISINFECT – use a pre-milking teat disinfectant on the teats. Let it sit for 30 seconds, then remove the disinfectant. DRY – If teats are wet, cups crawl up, cut off milk drainage and damage the teat ends.

- ✓ Wash with a low pressure water hose and dry with one paper towel per cow.
- ✓ In rotaries, you may need to change your cups on position.

### 2. STRIP cows EVERY DAY to detect, treat and isolate clinical cases.

The earlier that clinical cases are treated and isolated, the higher the chance of cure, and the lower the chance of mastitis spreading.

- ✓ Make daily quarter stripping a routine at times of high risk. You can reduce the time taken by stripping only two teats per cow per milking, e.g. all front teats at the morning milking and all back teats at the evening milking. Always wear gloves.
- ✓ A quarter has clinical mastitis if it has abnormal milk (wateriness or clots) for 3 or more squirts of milk.
- ✓ Recheck suspect cows at the next milking. Have a system in place that lets other staff know about suspect cows.

3. COVER 100% of every teat with TEAT DISINFECTANT 100% coverage with the correct concentration of disinfectant and emollient helps remove bacteria and heal teat damage. This is critical to mastitis control. Supple teat skin is also easier to keep clean.

- ✓ Using a Ready-To-Use product if water quality is uncertain.
- ✓ If you do mix teat disinfectant from concentrate, re-check the mixing rate and consider adding extra emollient during the wet period.
- ✓ Spray the whole surface of every teat. Check with a paper towel on some teats to make sure the fronts of the teats haven't been missed.
- ✓ If you usually use an automatic teat spray at the dairy exit, switch to hand spraying for this period to ensure complete coverage.



### 4. Keep TEATS CLEAN FOR AN HOUR after cows leave the shed.

Teat ends remain open for up to an hour after milking. If teats become dirty during this time, there is a high risk of bacteria entering the udder.

- ✓ Reduce muddy areas at the exit of the shed, lanes, holding and feeding areas. Look for badly pot-holed areas and repair or use a temporary fence to prevent cows

entering. Scrape clean feed pads regularly to minimise splashing of mud and manure onto udders.

- ✓ Set up a routine so cows don't lie down soon after milking. Have feed available when cows leave the shed, especially on feed pads, so cows stand and feed for the first hour