

REDUCE MASTITIS AND IMPROVE MILK QUALITY

MONITOR

Teat score 50 cows in early, mid and late lactation

Healthy teat skin and teat ends reduce the risk of bacteria entering the teat canal and causing mastitis

TEAT SKIN		TEAT ENDS		TEAT SPRAY COVERAGE	
Target >90% supple	<10% dry	Target >80% normal	<20% rough	Target 100% full coverage	0% partial coverage

If below target

Repair damaged/muddy races
Wash dirty teats before cupping
Add 10-15% extra emollient to teat spray

Minimise over-milking
Arrange a vet milking-time visit to assess vacuum, pulsation etc.

Staff training
Check auto sprayers

Your results

	Date	% Supple teat skin	% Normal teat ends	% Full teat spray coverage
Early				
Mid				
Late				

- Strip herd once a week
- Routinely test clinical mastitis
- Schedule 4+ herd tests per year

Scan here for the AgriHealth teat scoring resource



MANAGE

Clinical mastitis

Signs include hot swollen quarter and/or milk that has clots, flecks or is watery

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If you find a mastitis case

1. MARK 	2. GIVE PAIN RELIEF 	3. SAMPLE Take a milk sample, wait 24 hours and treat based on result 	4. SEPARATE 	5. TREAT 	6. RECORD
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Subclinical mastitis

- Use Mastatest HiSCC for:
 - RMT positive colostrum cows
 - Highest 20 SCC cows at each herd test (to identify *Staph.* cows)
- Manage *Staph. aureus* cows to reduce spread of infection e.g. milk last
- Cull chronically infected cows based on herd test SCC, and Mastatest results
- Treat infected cows with dry cow therapy at drying off



MINIMISE

Dry cows / springers

Treat heifers pre-calving with teat sealant. At drying off treat uninfected cows with teat sealant, and treat likely infected cows with antibiotic dry cow therapy and/or teat sealant.

Teat spray every time cows come to the shed

Milk cows if they leak before calving

Colostrum cows

Wash teats if they are dirty - use low pressure water and rub each dirty teat	Teat spray before milking to reduce spread of bacteria and for more comfortable milking	Strip each quarter every milking to detect and treat mastitis early	Milk each cow, and then teat spray again. Ensure full coverage of all teats	Rapid Mastitis Test (RMT) on 8th milking for cows, or 10th milking for heifers

Milking cows

Wash teats if they are dirty - use low pressure water and rub each dirty teat	Bend hose and wait until vacuum drops before removing cups	Teat spray every surface of every teat after every milking	Weekly - strip each quarter to detect clinical mastitis early	Adopt efficient milking with MaxT www.dairynz.co.nz/milking/milking-efficiently

Ready to Milk assessment

Teat Spray Mix

Active (L)	Emollient (L)	Water (L)	Total(L)

VacuumkPa

Liner replacement every.....months

Actions:

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End of season milk quality review date/...../.....

TOP TIPS

1. Keep hands clean during milking
2. Don't spray water onto udders
3. Teat spraying reduces new infections by 50% so teat spray every teat every milking all year
4. Milk the 'young cow' herd first