

# MANAGING YOUR HERD TO MINIMISE MASTITIS

MINIMISE

## Dry cows / springers

All cows and heifers treated with teat sealant (plus antibiotic if needed)

Teat spray any time cows come to the shed

Milk cows if they leak before calving

## Colostrum cows

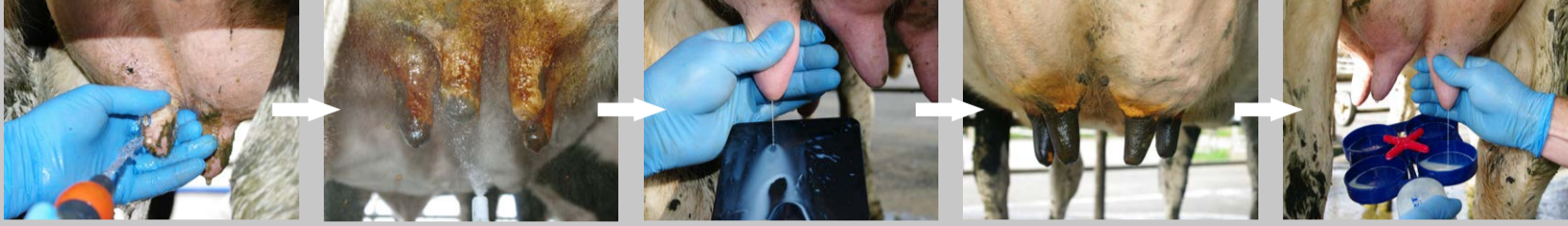
Wash teats if they are dirty - use low pressure water and rub each dirty teat

Teat spray colostrum cows before milking to reduce spread of bacteria and make milking more comfortable

Strip each quarter every milking to detect and treat mastitis early

Milk each cow. Teat spray again - full coverage of all teats

Rapid Mastitis Test (RMT) on 8th milking prior to joining the milking herd (or 10th milking for heifers)



## Milking cows

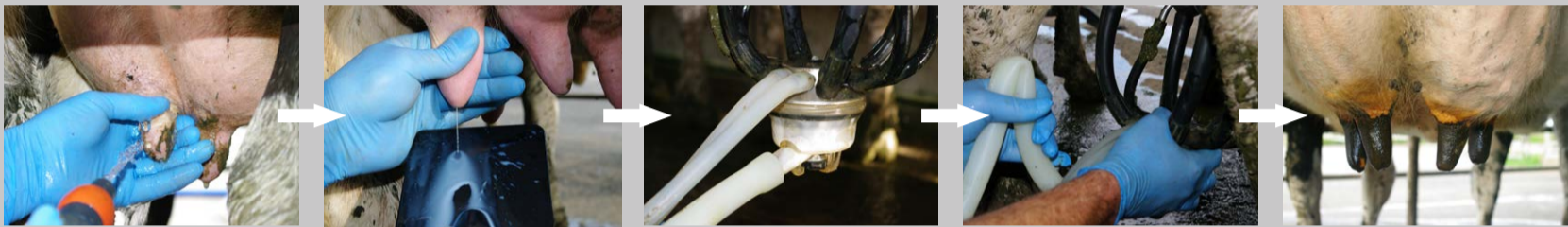
Wash teats if they are dirty - use low pressure water and rub each dirty teat

Strip each quarter weekly to detect clinical mastitis early

Adopt efficient milking with MaxT ([www.dairynz.co.nz/milking/milking-efficiently](http://www.dairynz.co.nz/milking/milking-efficiently))

Bend hose and wait until vacuum drops before removing cups

Teat spray every surface of every teat after every milking



## TOP TIPS

- 1 Keep hands clean during milking
- 2 Don't spray water onto udders
- 3 Teat spray reduces new infections by 50% so teat spray every teat every milking all year
- 4 Milk herd of younger cows first

MONITOR

## Teat score 50 cows once a month

**TEAT SKIN**

All teats with soft supple skin

Dry skin on one or more teats

**TEAT SPRAY COVERAGE**

All four teats fully covered

Incomplete spray coverage on any teat

**TEAT ENDS**

All teats with smooth ends

Rough ends on one or more teats

## Target

Minimum 90% supple teats

100% of all surfaces of teats covered

Minimum 80% smooth ends

## If below target

Repair damaged / muddy races

Wash dirty teats before cupping

Add 10-15% extra emollient to teat-spray

Staff training

Check auto sprayers

Minimise over-milking

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



Scan here for the AgriHealth teat scoring resource

MANAGE

## Clinical signs include hot swollen quarter and/or milk that has clots, flecks or is watery



## 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

Good mastitis management helps produce more milk of higher quality