

MILK QUALITY

Waupun Veterinary Services, LLC - Your Progressive Dairy Partner since 1958

Doing the Simple Things Right

The following is taken from an article written by Dr. Jantiyn Swinkels for M2 magazine on milk quality.

Dr. Swinkels wrote that milk quality is the outcome of many simple things of how cows are managed, such as aspects of milking, milking machine, immunity, environment, and the transition period.

Bacteria are everywhere on and around the cow and can't be eradicated. If given the opportunity, some bacterial species will always try to infect the udder because for them, milk is an ideal medium to eat, drink and multiply.

But these bacteria are not the cause, they just mirror the flaws in management that allows them to jump from udder to udder or from the environment into the udder. Farmers get the mastitis causing bacterial guests they invite for by the way they manage.

To survive, dairy farms will have to milk more cows over time. Then, doing simple things right becomes more important to compensate for increased infection pressure, due to more animal contacts and more healthy animals being sensitive to infection. On large farms, farmers see they can no longer survive without an attitude allowing strict compliance to standard operating procedures, ensuring simple things are done right to control udder health.



Torn Inflations

Lately we have run into a rash of torn inflations. We are not sure if these are just coincidences, but our dairymen should be looking for them. These can lead to an increase in clinical mastitis cases and elevated SCC. It is a good idea to train your milkers to be on the lookout for these and to replace the liners when you find them.

Clean the Inside of Your Waterer



Most of our farms clean their waterers on a regular basis. Besides cleaning the trough, the inside of the waterer should be cleaned because it can contaminate the whole trough. A couple of years ago I had a dairyman with a salmonella outbreak in his dry cows. These should be one of the least stressed groups on the farm and we had to figure out why they were getting infected. When I lifted up the lid of where the float was, there was a dead bird inside. When you train your workers to clean be sure they are careful not to damage the float.

WVS Offers Milk Quality Services

Dr. Mark Sosalla is the author of our quality milk newsletter. Dr. Sosalla and several other doctors at WVS can come to your farm and evaluate your milking procedures.

For more information, or to schedule a farm visit for milk quality services, please contact the clinic at 920-324-3831. Also, visit our website at www.waupunvet.com or check us out on Facebook!

Proper Lag Times are Important for Success

Much of the information in this article is taken from an article that Dr. Andy Johnson wrote for Progressive Dairy. Lag time is defined from the time from udder stimulation (stripping teats or applying scrubber brushes) to unit attachment.

Pre dipping or doing a quick dry wipe is not udder stimulation. A common error is to think lag time starts at first touch to unit attachment. There has been a lot of research done throughout the world, and the data has clearly shown that proper lag time has a huge impact on parlor performance. Many dairies think the quicker the units are attached; the more cows can be milked. Unfortunately, this isn't true. The most successful dairies put the cow and her health as a priority and are rewarded with better milk production, more milk per stall per day and excellent milk quality when units are attached at the proper time.

The latest data shows the best lag time needs to be a minimum of 90 seconds, with up to 200 seconds being acceptable. Longer lag times ensure better oxytocin release into the udder.

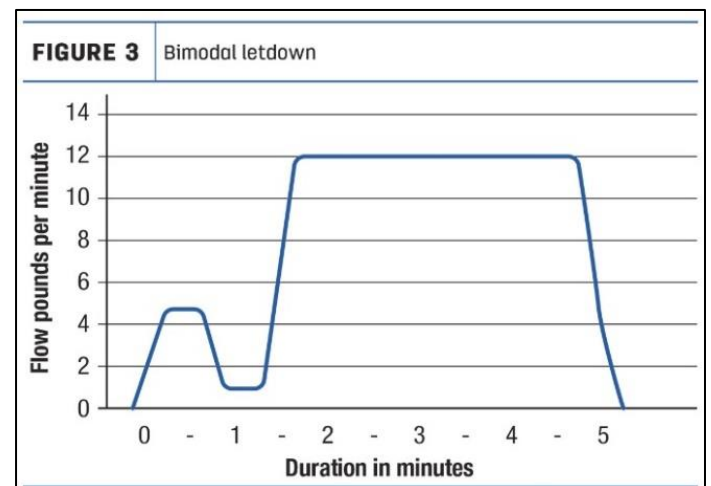
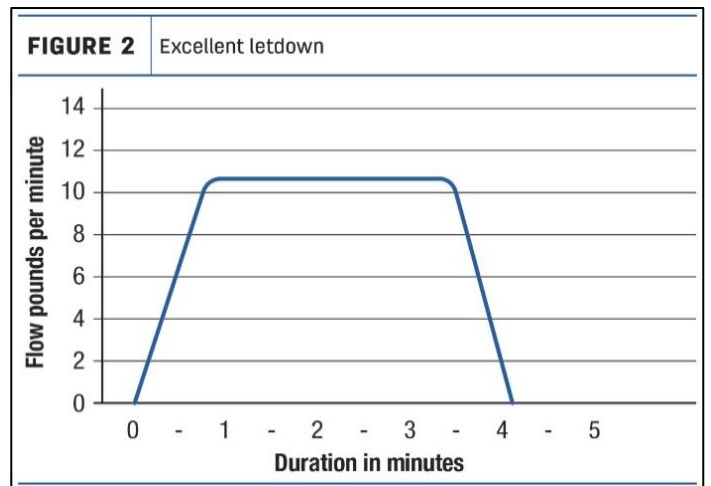
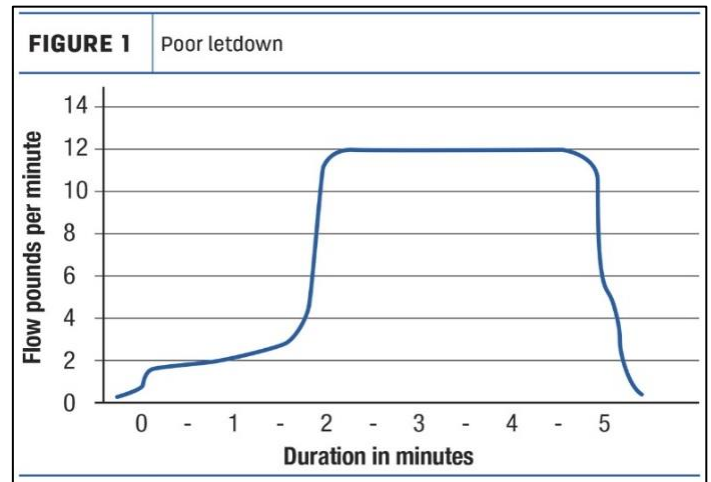
The graphs on the right are from Andy's article showing flow rates and duration.

Milking durations have reached new lows, ensuring more cows being milked. There are dairies with full udder prep and over 100 pounds of milk getting durations for the entire herd of 3,500 cows around three-and-a-half minutes. Five years ago, the duration was over five minutes. The goal now is for herds averaging over 100 pounds is four minutes or less duration. Besides duration, there are several other measurements you can monitor to see if your dairy has adequate letdowns or not.

Pounds per minute is one of the best measurements of the total milking process. It is affected by udder prep and equipment setup and changes are seen in this number quickly. New goals are now 8.5 pounds per minute or higher. One of Andy's dairies had 9.1 pounds per minute average for the whole herd in one of his visits.

Another number to look at is pounds of milk per cow in the first two minutes. Five years ago, 15 to 16 pounds of milk in the first two minutes was excellent. Today, dairies are seeing 19 to 22 pounds of milk in the first two minutes. This number is impacted by udder prep and, generally, the higher this number is, the shorter the durations are.

Measuring pounds of milk per stall per hour is a great number to monitor. In the past, the goal was 100 pounds per stall per hour, but with better flow rates it is



common for dairies to get over 200 pounds per stall per hour.

High-production dairies now have pens of cows with production averages over 160 pounds per day.

The key is to have a milking system and udder prep that can properly milk these cows and the cows of the future.