1. PURPOSE

To milk cows while ensuring consistent milking standards.

2. RESPONSIBILITY

All permanent, casual and student staff

3. MATERIALS

3.1 Milker action sheet
3.2 Treatment book
3.3 Observation sheet
3.4 Milk cart
3.5 Milkers
3.6 Milking Equipment
3.7 Milking pouch (teat dip bottle, striping cup, paper towels)
3.8 Bucket
3.9 Nitrile gloves
3.10 Iosan© solution

4. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Cows are milked twice daily, at 5:30 am and 5:00 pm.
4.2 Milking must be performed with 2 people present.
4.3 One person is responsible for 4-5 (maximum) milkers at a time.
4.4 Refer to DC-A-4D Leg Band Colour Band Legend for Milking sequence.
4.5 Plan in advance for milking the last cows. Make sure you have one milker for each treated cow that has not been used on a Staph + cow. Refer to SOP DC-611: Milking Staphylococcus Aureus Positive Cows.
4.6 Fresh cows should be milked first. Refer to SOP DC-608: Milking Fresh Cows.
4.7 Staph cows MUST BE MILKED LAST. A milker used on a staph cow cannot be used on any cows other than another Staph cow. Refer to SOP DC-611: Milking Staphylococcus Aureus Positive Cows.
4.8 Treated cows MUST BE MILKED LAST. Do not share milkers among treated cows. They could have been treated for different things. If by accident you are a milker short for a treated cow, it MUST BE SANITIZED before using it on a treated cow. Refer to SOP DC-612: Milking Antibiotic Treated Cows.
4.9 Cows unable to leave the box stall must be milked in the box stall and the equipment washed and sanitized after. Refer to corresponding SOP DC-609 Milking Pail Cows in Tie Stall or DC-610 Milking Pail Cows in Box Stall.

5. PROCEDURES

5.1 Prior to milking;
5.1.1 Read all instructions on the Milker Action Sheet on the milk cart
5.1.2 Check Treatment Book in the dairy office for cows requiring treatment immediately after milking.
5.1.3 Unplug trainers.
5.1.4 Scrape down and put clean bedding underneath the cows.
   - ALWAYS scrape down cows ahead and behind you during milking
   - NEVER put a milker on a cow with manure or dirty bedding underneath her.
5.1.5 Ensure the valves are open on the milkers
5.1.6 Put on the milking pouch equipped with papers, teat dip bottle and stripping cup.
5.1.7 Bring the milk cart into the barn.
5.1.8 Wear clean nitrile gloves

5.2 Gently remove any bedding from the udder and dip the entire teat in the teat dip. The dip must stay on the teat for a minimum of 20 seconds to be effective. DO NOT dip the teats if the teats / udder are very dirty.

5.2.1 If the teats are very dirty;
  5.2.1.1 Wet a paper towel in the small bucket of teat wash on the milk cart and remove any manure from the teat and surrounding area of the udder where the milker could make contact.
  5.2.1.2 Dry the teats using a dry paper towel.
  5.2.1.3 Dip the teats in the teat dip, wait for 20 seconds and proceed as normal.

5.3 Using a clean paper towel dry the teats, removing the dip.

5.4 Strip 4 good streams of milk from each quarter into the stripping cup.

5.5 Check the milk quality after each quarter. Any variation MUST be noted on the Observation Sheet located on the milk cart. (e.g. Clots, watery etc.). Affected quarter(s) must be identified on the Observation Sheet.

5.6 Approximately 60 seconds should elapse from the time the teat dip is wiped off to putting the milkers on to allow the milk to be let down.

5.7 Hold the milking claw cupped in your hand and attach each teat to the milker by crimping the hoses connecting the shells to the claw. This will prevent air being sucked and the valve popping up.

5.8 Ensure that the dangling shells do not suck up the bedding. Hold the claw by the bottom, NOT by the top loop. The milkers will retract automatically. They are not always reliable.

5.9 Ensure that all quarters are completely milked out.

5.9.1 If there is a lot of milk in all quarters:
  5.9.1.1 Put the milker back on and check again after.

  IMPORTANT: Do not put the milker back on more than twice if she is not milking out there will be a reason for it.

  5.9.1.2 Make a note on the Observation Sheet.

5.9.2 If there is a lot of milk in one or more quarters but not all:
  5.9.2.1 Put the milker back on with a plug(s) in the shell(s) corresponding to the quarters that were completely milked.

5.10 Immediately after a milker retracts and the cow has milked out, dip the teats before she has a chance to lie down.

5.11 Scrape down cows ahead and behind you. Never put a milker on a cow with manure or dirty bedding underneath her.

5.12 If a milker falls off and hits the ground and the vacuum has shut off:

  5.12.1 Check the ends of the teat cups.
  5.12.2 Sanitize in the tall bucket of losan© solution from the cart
  5.12.3 Dip the milker with the claw in the same position as you would put it on the cow.
  5.12.4 Fold the shells down into the solution and completely submerge the claw.
  5.12.5 Allow to drain. Do not turn the claw over, as the milk will drain out into the bucket and contaminate the solution. Should this happen the solution must be discarded and a new bucket mixed.

5.13 If a milker falls off and hits the ground but the vacuum does not shut off. (i.e. the milker continues to suck air while on the stall floor):

  5.13.1 Take the whole unit into the milk house for a thorough inspection and cleaning.
5.13.2 Remove the black plastic cover from the unit and check for bedding in the clear plastic box.

5.13.3 If there is bedding, then the milker must be disassembled and cleaned. Refer to SOP DC-606: Post Milking Procedures.
   5.13.3.1 Hang the milker up. DO NOT CONTINUE TO USE.
   5.13.3.2 Inform the Lead Technician IMMEDIATELY.
   5.13.3.3 Record the problem and milker number on the Observation Sheet.

5.13.4 If there is no bedding in the clear plastic box;
   5.13.4.1 Remove the blue hose from the bottom of the milker unit and flush out with water.
   5.13.4.2 Replace the cover and continue milking.

5.14 If at any time, the bucket with the Iosan® solution becomes contaminated with milk or bedding it must be replaced.

5.15 Regularly go back and scrape down milked cows removing all manure and any wet or milk sodden bedding.

**IMPORTANT**: Ensure there is a layer of dry bedding under the cows as this is a barrier to help prevent pathogens making contact with the teats causing mastitis.

5.16 At the end of milking
   5.16.1 Update the Milker Action Sheet
   5.16.2 Update the Observation Sheet
   5.16.3 Inform the Lead Technician of new information on the Observation Sheet or any heats observed.
   5.16.4 Wash the equipment and Milk House as per SOP DC-606: Post Milking Procedures.

5.17 Oxytocin administration:
   5.17.1 Must be approved by the Lead Technician, Dairy Farm Manager or Farm Director.
   5.17.2 Oxytocin administered to a cow during milking MUST be entered in the Treatment Book in the Dairy Office.

**Document Status and Revision History**

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<th>DATE (yyyy-mm-dd)</th>
<th>PREVIOUS VERSION</th>
<th>NEW VERSION</th>
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<td>2017-11-07</td>
<td>Revision# 02</td>
<td>MAC FACC approved</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020-09-13</td>
<td>Deleted 4.10 Leg Band Color Legend</td>
<td>4.3.: Added Refer to DC-A-4D Leg Band Color Band Legend for Milking sequence.</td>
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