



**Milking Tips From the NMC (edited article) - This article was reduced purely out of space. The National Mastitis Council has the entire article on the web page as well as others. [www.nmconline.org](http://www.nmconline.org) on the left side of the screen click on "Resources" You can find a link to the NMC on our web site as well.**

**Attitude:** Proper milking procedures and a positive attitude are required to minimize mastitis and maximize quality production from a milking herd. Milking should be done by responsible and conscientious persons.

**Reduce Stress:** Cows that are frightened or excited before milking may not let their milk down in spite of an effective preparation routine. A milking environment that routinely causes stress to cows may predispose cows to a greater rate of mastitis infection.

**Pre-Strip:** Presence of mastitis can be detected by using the hand to physically examine the udder for swelling, heat and/or "knots", and by using a strip cup or plate to examine foremilk of each quarter of each cow prior to every milking.

**Massage:** When teats and the lower part of the udder are massaged, a signal is sent to the brain which secretes the milk letdown hormone, oxytocin, into the blood stream, where it acts on muscle cells to "squeeze" milk-secreting tissue.

**Milk Only Dry Teats:** Regardless of how the udder and teats are prepared for milking they must be dry when milking machines are attached. Dry with individual paper towels to prevent cross contamination of quarters and cows.

**Removing The Milking Unit:** The practice of pulling the unit off under vacuum should be avoided because it may cause a machine-induced infection in one of the other quarters. A question often asked is "how should a quarter that milks out ahead of others be handled?" In general, if the teat cup will stay on the teat without slips, it should be left on because removal of the cup stimulates liner slip and may cause machine-mastitis. A majority of machine-induced infections occur near the end of milking. Toward the end of milking, when a teat cup liner slips as the liner opens small droplets of milk may be propelled back against the end of the teat. These droplets may contain mastitis organisms and, in some instances may enter the teat.

**Dip Teats:** Maintain teat dip cups in a clean and sanitary manner and never pour remaining dip back into the original container. Dip at least the lower one-third of each teat in a commercial preparation after every milking.

**Which cows First?** By milking first lactation cows first, second and later lactation cows with low somatic cell count second, cows with high somatic cell counts third, and clinical mastitis cows last, the chance of spreading mastitis organisms from cow to cow is reduced.

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Pfizer will be phasing out its RTU Excenel and returning to the original formula. Product will be available when all the "old" inventory has been purchased. I anticipate this within a month or so. Continue to shake well and check your product.

Pyramid 10 is available. Supply is reported to be good and production should be back to normal after back orders are filled.

Don't forget to check out the Pfizer rebate program on our webpage. Leaders Edge clients do not qualify. The Dairy program ends April 15th and the Beef program extends through May 31st.

Think Spring!

