



## From the Dr's desk.....Dr. Mark Fox

An article caught my eye that I thought was worth sharing. We are always looking for ways to help improve productivity on the dairy. The article is from the National Mastitis Control.

*Check the Milk Path from the Claw to the Milk Line:* This is one of several low-cost recommendations to help improve milking efficiency and milk quality.

Producers and dairy advisors can often take simple steps to improve the milking process and increase milk quality without costing a lot of money. During his presentation at the NMC Regional Meeting earlier this summer, Dr. David Reid, BouMatic, recommended spending some extra time in the parlor observing and monitoring equipment, procedures, and practices. Often times small changes can help improve milking efficiency and overall production and profitability.

One consideration is to closely evaluate the milk path from the claw to the milk line. Is the path downhill for the entire distance? Are there uphill sections of milk hose? Are hoses too long and are they causing milk to move in a loop? Any of these issues will impact milkability and cow behavior in the parlor or barn. Because of lifting milk, the average peak milk flow claw vacuum (defined as during the first and second minute after unit attachment) will be lower when any of these conditions are present.

Other examples and areas to observe can be found in Dr. Reid's paper "Everyday Observations That Can Improve Milk Quality and Udder Health" - I have asked the gals in the office to obtain copies of this article and can be sent to you upon request.

The NMC is an excellent source for article on milk quality and milk procedures. Please take the time to visit their site [www.nmconline.org](http://www.nmconline.org)

More thoughts on this topic from Dr. Michelle Borek

Further monitoring of you parlor's performance can include checking the following:

- \* Timing of initial stimulation (first touch to udder) to unit attachment should be about 60-90 seconds for proper letdown.
- \* Checking teat ends with a white towel/gauze to see if they are clean and dry.
- \* Apply a paper towel around the teat to check teat dip coverage.

In our milking training school, we address the cows natural physiology so that milkers understand why they perform the procedures we ask them to do. This session is in English and Spanish and is tailored to your farm's procedures, bringing training to workers prior and during milking. Call today if you are interested.

The Oxine/Citric Acid directions have been adjusted to be less confusing. We can email, fax or provide a copy of them for you—contact the office today.

It seems on a daily basis I am asked about Spectam...I don't mind. Unfortunately the news isn't good that I have to share. I have been told the company that had committed to putting this product back into production has put it on the "back" burner. They are making more profitable products into the forefront. We may be looking at years vs. months before we will see the product again. Not what any of us wanted to hear. Keep in mind when and if we hear anything we will share it with you. We are just as eager to see this product back as every producer. When something works it is frustrating to see it off the market.

Thanks....Helen

We are proud to welcome another addition to our clinic family.

Kaylynn Leigh Kennedy-Russell  
August 11, 2009 weighing 8lb 13oz and 21.5"

Kaylynn is the daughter of Kathryn who works in our Deckerville office. Kaylynn is also Helen's granddaughter and a great niece of Carrie's.



We are very proud to welcome her to our family.