

# WVS MILK QUALITY

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

## Parlor Efficiency Will Pay Off in Time



*By Dr. Mark Sosalla  
of Waupun Veterinary  
Services*

I attended a meeting on parlor efficiency at the National Mastitis Council and during the meeting I thought of the perfect herd to apply the principles being taught.

The herd that I worked with was only able to milk their cows 2 ½ times a day after expansion. With our changes to the parlor efficiency, we had some positive results.

After some milker training the timing from stimulation was raised to 100 seconds (recommendation is from 90-120 seconds). There also were circumstances that at the end of milking pens there were only a couple of cows in a side of the parlor.

The farm made a sheet for the person that stocks the pens to show how many cows needed to be in each pen so that there were multiples of the number of units on a side of the parlor. This allowed better usage of the parlor at the end of each pen.

The default setting on the take offs were set for 12 minutes maximum on time. The managers felt that the milkers were taking the units off quicker but by reviewing the cameras in the parlor it was found that at times the units were actually staying on for 12 minutes. The setting was changed so that the maximum time the units would stay on would be 8 minutes.

Strip yields were done at the end of milking, and the take offs were changed so the units would come off at 3.2 pounds per minute.

It was also found that at times the cows that entered the parlor were not immediately being prepped.

There were also times that cows were waiting in the parlor before exiting because the milkers were still attaching units on the other side of the parlor. The farm decided to hire a fourth person to help in the parlor.

After all these changes the farm lowered the time it took to load a tanker of milk from 7 ½ hours to 7 hours.

In one year there are 365 days multiplied by 22.5 hours (1.5 hours a day to wash), which equals 8,212.5 hours milking per year.

A total of 8,212.5 hours divided by 7.5 hours equals 1,095 tankers in a year.

By reducing the time to fill a tanker to 7 hours they will produce 1,173 tankers in a year.

The total of 1,173 tankers compared to 1,095 tankers equals 78 extra tankers a year.

Each tanker holds around 52,000 pounds of milk. At \$20 per hundred pounds of milk, each tanker is worth \$10,400.

The extra 78 tankers a year amounts to 78 multiplied by \$10,400, which equals \$811,200 per year.

The cost of the extra milker needs to be deducted from the \$811,200, but it is clear that the steps this farm took to increase efficiency will pay off.

*Interested in learning more about the milk quality services offered by Waupun Veterinary Services and how it may help your farm?*

*Contact the vet clinic to have Dr. Mark Sosalla or Dr. Molly Rogus tell you more about it. Contact the clinic at 920-324-3831.*

# ***Dirty Waterers Can affect Health of Cows***

Whenever we do a parlor evaluation, we always walk the pens to check the environment of the cows. We often lift up the covers on the waterers to check the cleanliness of the inside where the floats are. The inside is connected to the outside of the trough, so it is important that they are cleaned. We often find a lot of crud under the covers. Make sure whoever is cleaning the waterers also cleans under the cover.

These are just a few of the many pictures we have taken of dirty waterers.

The cleanliness of the water affects the health of the cows which affects milk quality. I once had a farmer with a salmonella outbreak in his dry cows. Salmonella is often associated with stressed cows. The dairyman thought that his dry cows were probably the least stressed cows in his herd and wondered why they were getting salmonella. I lifted up the cover to his waterer in the dry pen and found a dead bird. When we removed the dead bird the salmonella cases stopped.

With the warm weather coming it is especially important to make sure the cows have access to clean waterer. Make sure whoever is cleaning the waterers is careful not to damage the floats while cleaning.



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