

WVS MILK QUALITY

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

Check Concentration of Dips Regularly

By Dr. Mark Sosalla

of Waupun Veterinary Services

Chlorine dioxide dips are excellent dips. They are cheaper than iodine dips, work better with high bio loads on the teats, and are fast killers.

One disadvantage is that they usually require mixing of a base and activator. There can be problems with the mixing which can result in low or no chlorine dioxide concentrations in the dips. The dips should be routinely inspected to make sure there is a high enough concentration in the dip.

In the last week I have run into mixing problems with the dips in two herds. FutureCow sells test strips which will give you a rough estimate of the concentration and the pH of the dips. The FutureCow's strips rely on a color change and give chlorine dioxide levels from 0, 300, 600, 1200, and 2400 ppm. The strips give pH readings from 2.0-4.5 in .5 increments. FutureCow recommends that their dips have between 800-1200 ppm chlorine dioxide and a pH between 2-3.

Titration test kits for chlorine dioxide can also be purchased that will get the results to 50 ppm levels.

This test requires more time and expertise but gets a more precise result. The FutureCow test strips are \$60 plus shipping for 100 strips. The titration kits cost around \$100.



Most chlorine dioxide dips are a 1:1 ratio of activator and base. Uneven levels of activator and base in barrels indicates a potential mixing problem.



Pictured above at left is a container of FutureCow test strips. Above at right is a picture of water dripping from a FutureCow mixing barrel from a stuck float adding too much water.

Sometimes All You Need is to Ask for Some Help...



**By Dr. Mark Sosalla
Of Waupun Vet Services**

Dr. Al has been telling me that I need to put stories into my newsletter. I am not near as good of a writer as Dr. Al is but here is my attempt to tell a story about practice.

The winter of 2014 was one of the coldest that I can remember in

my 41 years of practice.

One night when I was on call, it was a particular cold and windy January night, and I received a call about a beef cow with a prolapsed uterus at 2:00 in the morning. I did not recognize the name of the farmer, and I first thought it was some farmers playing a joke on me at closing time at a bar, but the farmer convinced me that he really had a cow in distress.

It had been so cold that the farmer was not able to clean out the pen for a couple of weeks where the cow had the prolapse.

I struggled and struggled to get the prolapse back in. Every time I would get close, she would push it back out. People that know me, know that I expect things to go well and get frustrated when it doesn't.

From my years of playing sports in high school, I always felt I got stronger when I got mad. I proceeded to call the cow every name in the book (most of the names should not be used in public) while I was trying to get the uterus back in. The madder I got the harder the cow pushed back at me.

Finally at a point of exasperation I said, "Please God, help me!" Honest to God as soon as I said that the uterus went right back in.

The farmer that was helping said maybe you should have said that first. In hindsight the farmer was right.

Cracked Teat Plugs Harbor Bacteria

Many dairymen use teat plugs on 3-quartered cows. Over time the plugs can become worn and cracked.

The cracks are a good place for bacteria to hide and lead to more mastitis. The plugs should be routinely checked for cracks.

Cracked teat plugs harbor bacteria. Check for cracks on your teat plugs like the ones pictured below.



If you would like to learn more about WVS quality milk services, or to schedule a farm visit, please contact the clinic at 920-324-3831.

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