The Co-operative Difference

Fonterra Dairy for life

Early season animal treatment and colostrum residue

The importance of managing residues at calving

More than 30% of Fonterra's inhibitory substance grades occur during calving. Milk contaminated with antibiotic residues or colostrum can be costly to you and your Co-operative.

The increasing use of teat sealants poses new challenges for processors and you should take extra care when managing high-risk colostrum cows.

Residues can generally be avoided by best practice management of:

- Veterinary medicines recording
- Colostrum mob management
- Plant cleaning protocols

Identifying and managing potential sources of residues at calving

Inhibitory substance grades are generally caused by veterinary medicines, teat sprays or cleaning products. During spring and calving, residues can also enter milk from:

- Dry Cow Therapy (antibiotics)
- Teat sealants
- Colostrum

To avoid these residues entering your milk, it is critical that you accurately identify treated cows and observe the necessary withholding periods.

Fonterra recommends that you use the acronym **MRS T – Mark, Record, Separate and Treat** – to do this:

- Ensure all staff are aware of the current systems in use.
- Review your farm's systems around inhibitory substances each season before you start supplying milk
- Follow your vet's advice around treatments and observe the label instructions.

Before allowing each cow's milk to enter supply you should ensure that:

1. **Milk (colostrum) has been withheld for at least eight complete milkings since calving**

   This is especially important when teat sealants or Dry Cow Therapy have been used as their withholding times rely on colostrum not entering supply.

   Milk from heifers and any cows not letting their milk down should be withheld from the bulk milk tank for 10 milkings.

   When milking colostrum cows once a day, you need to withhold milk for eight days.

2. **You have observed the withholding period after administering dry cow therapy**

   The withholding period includes the minimum dry period length and the post calving (colostrum) withholding periods added together.

   For example, if the label states treatment must be at least 49 days prior to calving, and the cow calves only 40 days from treatment, her milk must be withheld for nine days plus a further eight milkings.

   All dry cow label instructions should be followed when administering this treatment, particularly around the minimum litres a cow should be producing at dry off. If cows are producing under the recommended litres at the time of dry off, there is an increased risk of the withholding period extending beyond the products label.

3. **There are no inhibitory substances in the vat**

   If the majority of the herd has received DCT or if you are returning a large number of treated cows to the milking herd at one time, you should test your

   milk for Inhibitory Substances prior to supply.

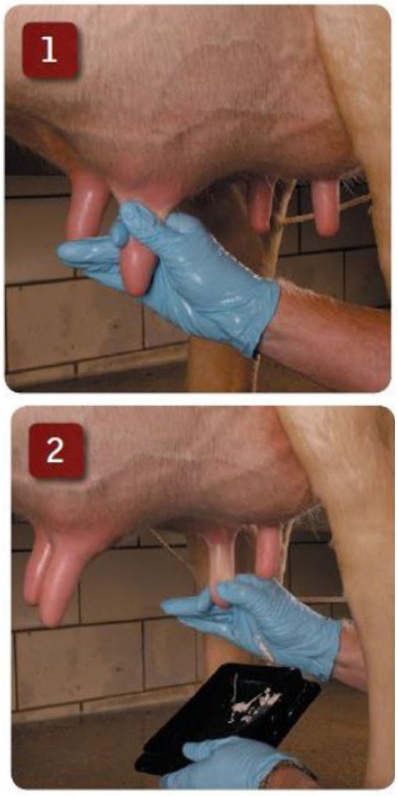
Best practice management of the colostrum mob

Colostrum must not be added to the vat for collection by Fonterra. Colostrum cows, and any other cows whose milk should be withheld, should be run in a separate mob and marked to ensure their milk does not go into the vat.

The colostrum herd should be milked after all cows (herds) intended for supply have been milked and vat tap has been changed to prevent any residues in the milk line from entering supply.

All colostrum cows should be hand stripped before each milking to remove any remaining teat sealant and to check for mastitis. It is important that the teat sealant is removed by manual stripping at the first milking to prevent it entering your milk for supply. When stripping the cow, start at the very top of the teat to ensure all sealant is removed.

Teat sealants must be removed by manual stripping. All colostrum cows should be hand stripped before each milking to remove any remaining teat sealant and check for mastitis.



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Plant cleaning protocols during calving

1. **A hot wash** should be conducted after each colostrum mob milking. This ensures the removal of any colostrum or teat sealant particles that may stick to milk contact surfaces. During the wash cycle, each cluster should be checked to ensure they are receiving wash water. Residues left in the machinery from inadequate washing can cause a residue issue in the next milking.
2. **Acid and alkali washes** should be alternated according to the machine manufacturer's recommendation and wash chemicals used to labeled instruction.
3. **Filter sock**s must be in place throughout the milking and cleaning phases, and disposable socks must be replaced after each colostrum mob milking.

Everyone on your farm should be familiar with these procedures. More details are available at **Dairy NZ.**

Support:

If you have any concerns that your milk could contain residues call the Farm Source Service Centre on 0800 65 65 68 and have the suspect milk tested before your next collection.