

SOP No: ATT 057

SUBJECT: Use of the Wesfalia Milking Machine in dairy cattle

POLICY: Follow the Code of Practice for handling cattle

PRECAUTIONS: Wear sturdy footwear and sun protection
Wash hands and exposed body parts thoroughly with soap and water after handling animals.
Cover any open wounds with waterproof wound dressing

EQUIPMENT: Crush or yards
Milking machine

PROCEDURE: Starting the Milking Machine

1. Turn on the plate cooler
2. Turn on the variotherm by pushing the cow icon button. The digital display will read “milking”
3. Check the clamp on the hose below the filter is shut
4. Hook up red milk line to vat and turn lever in the direction of the hose. If the vat has been emptied prior to milking, ensure that vat outlet is thoroughly clean. Unscrew valves and scrub with warm soapy water if necessary
5. Turn on teat spray unit by turning levers in line with the direction of arrows
6. Turn on rapid exit gates by pushing the green button on right hand side wall in vacuum room.
7. Unhook cups from clusters and press “Stop”
8. Check the levers beside the vacuum vessel and milk collection vessel are in the milk position, that is, both levers horizontal and line clamp shut
9. Turn on the cow mister to keep cows cool when the weather is hot

Procedure – Harvesting the Milk

1. Ensure the teats are clean and dry. Wash with hand hose and dry with paper towel if necessary
2. Press “Start” on the metatrons. This will start the vacuum to the cups
3. Position the cups so that cluster button is uppermost and attach the cups firstly to the front quarters and then to the rear quarters. Always work between the cow’s back legs
4. After the cups have automatically come off, ensure the quarters are milked out properly. If not, rehang

- the cups on the cow. When milking is complete, spray each teat end liberally with iodine
5. Fresh cows and those cows treated with antibiotics must have their milk isolated from the saleable milk supply for 5 days for freshly calved cows and as per manufacturer's instructions for cows treated with antibiotics. Milk may be isolated by attaching the stainless steel bucket to the milk and vacuum. The metatron must be put on manual mode by pushing "Start, Stop, Start, Start" to milk cows with the bucket attached

Procedure – Washing the Milking Machine and Dairy Shed

1. Wash the cups with the hand held hose and rehang them on the jettors with the cup button at the bottom of the cup cluster. Press and hold "C" until the vacuum releases
2. Open the levers near the vacuum and milk collection chambers so that they are in a perpendicular position. Undo the hose clamp
3. Turn off the iodine spray unit
4. Go to the vat room and turn off the plate cooler. Do not touch the "Run" switch. Hold the purge button on the variotherm for 3 seconds. After the air has been pushed through the lines, close the lever to the vat and undo the milk hose
5. Push the spring ball upward from the wash outlet and attach the milk hose to the wash outlet
6. The digital window on the variotherm will read "Milking Error". Push "Stop" then "E". Press the wash button on the variotherm to commence the wash cycle
7. Whilst the machines are going through the wash cycle, hose the floor of the dairy shed using the four yellow hoses along the exit lanes. Turn the tap valve to the hose on first before switching the pump on. When you have finished hosing, turn off the pump first and then the hose valve. Open the yard gates and close the exit lane gates in readiness for the next milking. Hose out calf cages and calf feeding area on a daily basis. Hose out the floor of the milk vat room regularly
8. Lower the rapid exit gates and turn them off
9. Read the milk level in the vat using the calibrated stick
10. When wash cycle has finished, unscrew the milk line from the wash outlet and open the clamp at the bottom of the filter. When the excess water has drained out, unscrew the filter and replace used one with a new one. The filter must be changed after each milking

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11. Change the levers near the vacuum and milk collection chambers back to milking position (both horizontal) and open the clamp
12. Make sure the vat is turned on.
13. Fill iodine spray unit if necessary
14. Scrub and rinse all stainless steel and calf feeding buckets in warm water with “Boning Room Cleaner” added, and turn upside down to dry
15. Check all chemical containers that supply the vat cleaner or the machine cleaner. Fill if necessary

On completion of procedure observe animal for signs of excessive distress.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

DATE ISSUED: 24.06.2009

REVISED:

REFERENCES

1. SCARM (2004) *Primary Industries Standing Committee Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Cattle*, 2nd Edition, (2004), PISC Report 85, CSIRO, Australia