

August 2010

Drying Off Cows

Cows should be dried off abruptly six to eight weeks before the expected calving date. Gradual drying off, by milking once daily or incompletely, is not recommended for a number of reasons.

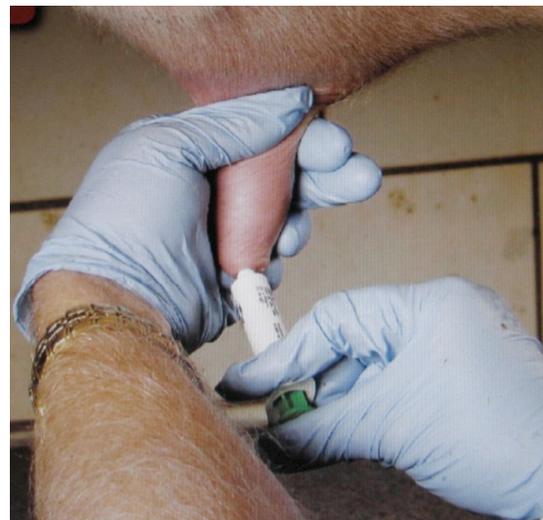
- It is counter-productive as removing milk acts as a stimulus for further milk production.
- Less frequent milking may increase risk of bacterial infection prior to drying off
- Milk from infrequently milked cows has a high somatic cell count.
- A protracted drying off process could reduce the length of the dry period below the optimum.

Dry Cow Tubing

To get the maximum benefits from dry cow tubing cows

- Milk cows for the last time and separate cows to dry off after the end of milking not during.
- Wear clean gloves and tube the two furthest teats after teat dipping and drying with clean paper and thorough cleaning and disinfection of the teat ends with surgical spirit.
- If you are dual tubing with Orbeseal ensure you pinch the teat barrel closed to keep the Orbeseal at the base of teat- see picture.
- Repeat the procedure for the two nearest teats and teat dip all four teats.
- Keep cows standing for twenty minutes and then take away from the sound of

the milking machine but check daily looking for swollen quarters.



Benefits of Dual tubing with an antibiotic dry cow tube and teat sealant Orbeseal:

In a recent trial using 437 cows, two of each cows quarters were tubed with an antibiotic dry cow tube only and the other two quarters received Orbeseal as well as the antibiotic tube.

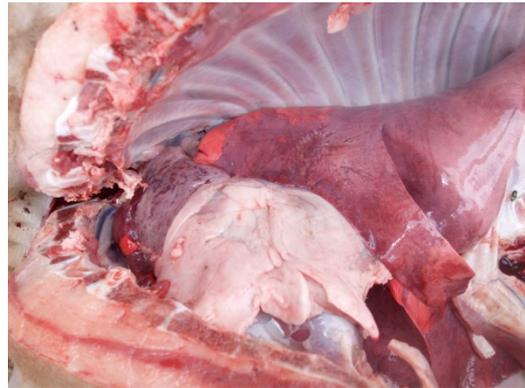
There was a 30% reduction in new infection rate during the dry period in dual tubed quarters

There was a 33% reduction in clinical mastitis during the first 60 days of lactation in dual tubed quarters.

Protecting lambs against Clostridial disease and Pasteurella

Even if ewes are fully vaccinated against Clostridial and Pasteurella disease the colostral protection of the lambs will only last up to 12 weeks for Clostridial disease and up to 5 weeks for Pasteurella.

All lambs should be vaccinated with two doses of a Clostridial/ Pasteurella vaccine 4-6 weeks apart with the programme completed two weeks before periods of risk. Lambs can be vaccinated from 3 weeks of age.



Systemic Pasteurellosis is the commonest cause of sudden death in lambs between July and December and outbreaks are often triggered by stressful situations such as weaning, dosing or even weather changes.



If you are losing lambs a post-mortem is recommended to determine the cause as outbreaks of Pasteurellosis can be treated with long acting antibiotics.