



2.1 Using the CowTime Milking Monitor

The CowTime Milking Monitor provides an opportunity to evaluate your own milk harvesting performance. This is the first step in planning a change for easier and more productive milking.

CowTime is designed to challenge you to examine the factors that you can change on your own farm that will give you a milk harvesting system that best suits your farm and family goals. The Milking Monitor is an integral part of other CowTime activities (such as CowTime Clinics and CowTime Courses) and technical material.

How to use the CowTime Milking Monitor

Step 1: You can receive a personalised CowTime Milking Monitor report for your farm by completing the simple questions overleaf about your own milk harvesting process. If you are unsure of an answer then go out there and measure it - after all measurement is the first step towards a better understanding.

Step 2: Submit your figures: Place your farm information in the appropriate spaces overleaf. Fax the sheet back to CowTime on (03) 56242290, OR Input them directly over the web at www.cowtime.com.au

Step 3: A personalised report will be faxed or mailed back to you by return OR appear on your screen ready for printing.

Notes concerning specific questions

1. The questions should be answered for your peak production time or time of greatest production for year-round milking enterprises.

2. The amount of labour units to include sometimes causes confusion. For example:

Question 8 - examines the number of labour units used in the dairy. If someone helps for about half of the milking then count them as 0.5 of a person. Therefore if one person always milks and the runner helps out in the pit for about half the time, then the total number of milkers should be shown as 1.5.

Question 10 - examines the machine cleaning time. Estimate the labour time used in completing this task rather than the time the machine takes to wash. In automated systems the actual labour use will be much smaller than manual cleaning systems.

Question 12 -examines the number of labour units used in yard cleaning. If more than one person completes this task add together the time that each person spends on this task to get the total labour time used.



Privacy Statement

We take your right to privacy very seriously. As part of the CowTime project's research efforts we collect certain details about the users of our 'Milking Monitor' service. Farm performance data collected by the service will be used to develop new benchmarking figures for the dairy industry. Personal details will be removed from the data and any results published or released will be in the form of aggregated figures only.

Personal information collected from this service will be kept strictly confidential and will not be shared with outside parties.

CowTime may contact some users of this service for evaluation or other purposes.

*Fax back to the CowTime Project on (03) 5624 2200,
or enter your figures on our interactive website yourself at
www.cowtime.com.au*

Milking Monitor Farm Data Collection Form

Please use times from your peak milk production time for these answers.

1. How many cows do you milk at the peak of the season? Q1_____Cows
2. How many minutes on average does it take to bring the cows from the paddock to the dairy for a milking? Q2_____Minutes
3. What is the average distance (metres) walked by the herd from the paddock to the dairy for each milking? Q3_____Metres
(Questions 2&3 are used to calculate walking speed. If you wish, take a known distance and measure the time it takes the herd to cover that distance.)
4. What is the number of **milking clusters** in your dairy? Q4_____Clusters
5. How many milking times are undertaken in a 24 hour period? *(tick one)*
 once per day twice per day three times per day
6. What is the total time spent milking (**first cups on to last cups off**)
 - a) at the morning milking? Q6a_____Minutes
 - b) at the afternoon milking? Q6b_____Minutes
 - c) at a third milking? Q6c_____Minutes
7. If you milk twice a day choose which hourly milking interval best matches your routine *(tick one)*
 15/9 (eg. 6am, 3pm) 14/10 (eg. 6am, 4pm)
 13/11 (eg. 6am, 5pm) 12/12 (eg. 6am, 6pm)
8. How many operators normally milk in the dairy at a milking? Q8_____Operators
9. How much milk goes into the vat each day during your peak production time? Q9_____Litres
(please include the volume of milk used for other purposes (ie for calves) as we are seeking the total amount of milk harvested per day.)
10. What is the average labour time taken to clean the milking machines each morning? Q10_____Minutes
(This is the total labour time required to do the activity – not the machine cycle time.)
11. What type of system is used to clean the milking machines? *(tick one)*
 reverse flow bucket clean in place/jetter other _____
12. What was the average labour time (mins) taken for yard wash down in the morning? Q12_____Minutes
(if 2 people are used, add the time each spent to get the total)
13. What system do you use to clean your yard down? *(tick one)*
 hose flood wash mounted on backing gate
 hose & scraper hydrant wash other _____
14. How many hours out of a 24 hour day are spent on milk harvesting activities on a typical day at peak lactation? Q14_____Hours
(include all the time taken from when cows are collected in the paddock to the end of cleaning up, for each milking in a 24 hour period)
15. What type of dairy shed do you have? *(tick one)*
 rotary double up herringbone walk-through
 swingover herringbone double up rapid exit other _____

Contact Details Please complete the following:

First Name _____ Surname* _____

Postal Address _____ Postcode* _____

Telephone* (____) _____ Fax* (____) _____ Email _____

** These items must be filled in to access the CowTime 'Milking Monitor' service and to contact you with your results.*

Fax back to (03) 5624 2200 or online at www.cowtime.com.au