

MILKING AND MASTITIS MANAGEMENT

On-farm Skills Check

MILKING AND MASTITIS MANAGEMENT SKILLS CHECK

Task	Satisfactory Competency	Unsatisfactory
Safely bringing the cows to the dairy in a calm manner	<p>Consistently and accurately prepares the dairy appropriately before bringing in the cows</p> <p>Operates vehicles according to farm procedures</p> <p>Accurately observes and responds to obstacles when operating the vehicle on the farm and around the cows.</p> <p>Operates the vehicle at safe speed</p> <p>Sets gates as required to get cows in</p> <p>Keeps an appropriate distance away from the cows to allow them walk at their own pace</p> <p>Can explain cows' natural behaviours including flight zone, cows' field of vision, herding behaviour and pecking order or dominance behaviour</p> <p>Identifies problems in the paddock (e.g. leaking troughs)</p> <p>Behaves in a manner that minimises stress for both cows and people</p>	<p>Forgets to organise gates and ensure the dairy is ready to receive the cows</p> <p>Does not operate the vehicle according to farm procedures</p> <p>Does not yet operate the vehicle at safe speed</p> <p>Not avoiding bumps, humps and holes</p> <p>Moving quickly when near the cows</p> <p>Cows show that they are rushed by putting their heads up in the air</p> <p>Noisy and/or rushing when bringing the cows in or in the dairy</p> <p>Unaware or unable to apply principles of cows' flight zone</p> <p>Unable to or does not identify problems in the paddock (e.g. leaking troughs, broken fences etc)</p>
Identifying hazards	<p>Hazards (hot water, slip, trip hazards, chemicals, noise, low bars) can be identified in the dairy and risk mitigation ideas offered.</p> <p>Hazards (when identified) are reported appropriately and in a timely manner</p> <p>Describes ways to minimise risk when hazard identified</p>	<p>Missing or ignoring hazards</p> <p>Does not report hazards (when identified) appropriately and in a timely manner</p> <p>Cannot describe ways to reduce risk when hazard pointed out by on-farm coach</p>
Put on PPE	<p>Always wears appropriate PPE including boots, apron and milking gloves and keeps clean throughout milking</p>	<p>Does not wear appropriate and clean PPE in the dairy</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <hr/>
Cows settling as they come into the dairy	<p>Can describe the milk let-down process and why it is important</p> <p>Correctly brings cows into the dairy (if required; from the back of the yard) without disrupting natural cow flow</p>	<p>Cannot describe let-down process or its importance</p> <p>Is loud, moves quickly and/or rushes cows entering and exiting the dairy</p> <p>Does not correctly bring cows into the dairy and disrupts natural cow flow</p>
Assess hygiene of teats before milking	<p>Consistently and correctly washes and dries teats that require cleaning before putting cups on</p>	<p>Places cups on teats that are contaminated (dirty/muddy)</p> <p>Does not dry teats after washing</p>

<p>Cups On</p>	<p>Identifies cows that are agitated and responds appropriately or requests assistance if needed</p> <p>Identifies cows that are marked and takes appropriate action to segregate milk from the vat</p> <p>Safely approaches cows, holding the cups correctly</p> <p>Correctly attaches cups to cow and in a timely manner</p> <p>Correctly attaches cups to a “three teater”</p> <p>Recognises cups slips or twisted clusters, and corrects as required</p>	<p>Does not identify cows that are agitated and respond appropriately or requests assistance if needed</p> <p>Puts head or hands unsafely beyond the rails towards the cows</p> <p>Uses incorrect technique (such as cups twisted or applied to incorrect teats) or takes a long time to put cups on</p> <p>All four cups are put on a “three teater” or not correctly attached</p> <p>A marked cow is not identified and/or milked into the vat</p> <p>Cup slip is not identified or corrected</p>
<p>Applying post-milking teat disinfection</p>	<p>Safely approaches cow and watches whilst applying teat disinfectant to all teat surfaces</p> <p>Consistently achieves adequate coverage of all teat surfaces with teat disinfectant.</p> <p>Adjusts approach if a cow is demonstrating signs of agitation.</p>	<p>Does not recognise the signs of agitation with a cow that may need care when teat spraying</p> <p>Does not take care when applying teat disinfection</p> <p>Does not consistently achieve adequate coverage of all teat surfaces with teat disinfectant.</p>
<p>Self-checking technique of teat spraying</p>	<p>Uses paper towel to assess coverage and can detail what shows good application</p> <p>Observes cows’ teats as they exit the dairy</p>	<p>Not able to perform paper towel test and/or say whether paper towel check shows good or poor application of spray</p> <p>No cross checking all cows’ teats disinfected as the cows leave the dairy</p>
<p>Assesses end of milking</p>	<p>Observes back quarters as well as milk flow into the claw bowl to appropriately decide the end of milking</p> <p>Able to recognise and re-apply cups if a cow has not milked out completely.</p> <p>Removes cups at appropriate time, as milking ends</p>	<p>Does not pick up the signs that a cow has finished or is close to finishing milking</p> <p>Not able to recognise and/or does not re-apply cups if a cow has not milked out completely.</p> <p>Removes the cups while the cow is still milking well</p>
<p>Removes the cups safely</p>	<p>Kinks long milk tube correctly to stop vacuum and allows time for cups to fall away from teats</p> <p>Supports cups as they come away from the teats to remove cups</p> <p>Recognises when air admission hole is blocked</p>	<p>Uses vacuum release button to break vacuum</p> <p>Pulls cups off before vacuum has been sufficiently released</p> <p>Does not recognise when air admission hole is blocked</p>
<p>Detecting mastitis</p>	<p>Can describe and recognise signs of clinical mastitis</p> <p>Correctly and safely strip checks cows</p> <p>Ensures gloves are kept clean and does not get milk on gloves</p> <p>Can recognise clinical mastitis when strip checking a cow</p> <p>Communicates with senior staff for appropriate management when a case of clinical mastitis is detected</p>	<p>Cannot describe and/or recognise signs of clinical mastitis</p> <p>Unable to extract milk on a strip check</p> <p>Gets milk on gloves consistently or does not keep gloves clean</p> <p>Unable to identify if a cow has mastitis clinical mastitis after strip checking</p> <p>Fails to communicate with senior staff when mastitis suspected</p>

<p>Conducts themselves in a calm, confident manner to allow cows' to safely and calmly leave the dairy</p>	<p>Moves calmly and deliberately throughout all aspects of milking while in the dairy</p> <p>Positive behaviours (patting, speaking calmly, moving slowly amongst the cows) demonstrated</p>	<p>Speaks loudly or shouts</p> <p>Moves quickly and unpredictably</p> <p>Inappropriate clapping and flapping of arms near the cows</p> <p>Rough handling of the cows</p>
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