

milking group can lead to the most susceptible cows on the farm (i.e. the transition cows) being at the greatest risk for new IMI.

Managing poached gateways (Fig. 5) and areas around water troughs and feeders (Fig. 6) is absolutely essential, for example fencing cows away from these areas, moving gateways, moving feeders and using bark. The use of udder and leg hygiene scoring can be useful in these circumstances to demonstrate to the farmer that the cows are too dirty.



Figs. 5 and 6: Managing poached gateways (Fig. 5 September) and areas around water troughs and feeders (Fig. 6 October) is absolutely essential



Fig. 6.

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Acknowledgements: Dr. Andrew Bradley MRCVS and Prof. Martin Green MRCVS.

NEWS RELEASES

ROUTINE CLUSTER FLUSHING SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCES BACTERIAL CHALLENGE

Automatically flushing and cleansing teat liners after each cow is milked to remove residual milk and contaminants can reduce bacteria levels by over 97% and help reduce the spread of mastitis.

In trials carried out by leading veterinary surgeon Roger Blowey of the Wood Veterinary Group in Gloucester on behalf of equipment manufacturer Vaccar, cluster flushing was shown to reduce total bacterial counts in the teat liner as well as specifically controlling levels of *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Bacterial swabs were taken from teat liners before and after they were cleansed using the Vaccar cluster flush system. All bacterial counts were significantly reduced with levels of total bacteria and *Staph aureus* reduced by over 97%. Coliforms which indicate faecal contamination were reduced by over 89%.

“Few farmers are aware of the importance of teat liner hygiene in controlling the risk of infection,” comments Mr Blowey. “The majority of new infections enter the teat while the teat end muscles are relaxed, so the liner is a major source of potential infections. Flushing the liners reduces this risk considerably.”

The Vaccar cluster flush system, which can be installed on most makes of milking parlour works by flushing the cluster with water or sanitising solution before compressed air is blasted through the system to remove all water, leaving the cluster cleaned. Triggered automatically by the ACR the whole process takes less than 30 seconds.

“While it is possible to rinse clusters manually the approach has numerous drawbacks,” explains Pete Larner of Vaccar. “Manual rinsing is time consuming and often leads to more clutter in the parlour. It is also possible to forget to dip clusters or to clean them inconsistently.”

“Automatic flushing overcomes all of these drawbacks and ensures the risk of cow to cow transfer via liners is minimised, helping to reduce the losses associated with mastitis and boost the volume of saleable milk produced.”

VETOQUINOL LAUNCHES MARBOCYL SOLO

Vetoquinol UK has launched Marbocyl Solo - a one shot treatment for Bovine Respiratory Disease.

Marbocyl Solo is a 100 mg/ml solution of marbofloxacin given as one injection IM at 8 mg/kg. It treats sick animals fast, killing bacteria in one go, therefore minimising lung damage and consequential morbidity. This fast action reduces the risk of the spread of infection. On top of that, Marbocyl Solo has a meat withdrawal of only 3 days (milk 3 days).

“Marbocyl is a well proven antibacterial that is extensively used in cattle practice,” explains Alvin Cerey, Marbocyl’s product manager. “Marbocyl Solo is exceptionally well placed for applying ‘concentration killing’ or a ‘strike action’ strategy as opposed to a ‘long action’ strategy used by other antibiotics. Marbocyl Solo is available as a separate presentation to Marbocyl 10% to avoid confusion, particularly with farmers, on different dosage regimes and withdrawal periods.”

Marbocyl Solo is available now and details have been mailed to all cattle vets in the UK and Ireland. Please contact your Vetoquinol representative or telephone 0800 169 8197 for more details.