

# QUALITY UDDER PREPARATION

FIRST VISIT



**A** **Cows must be clean.** This results from proper stall maintenance. Cows should be treated gently for optimal oxytocin release. Dry wipe any dirty teats to remove foreign material from the teat prior to applying the teat dip.



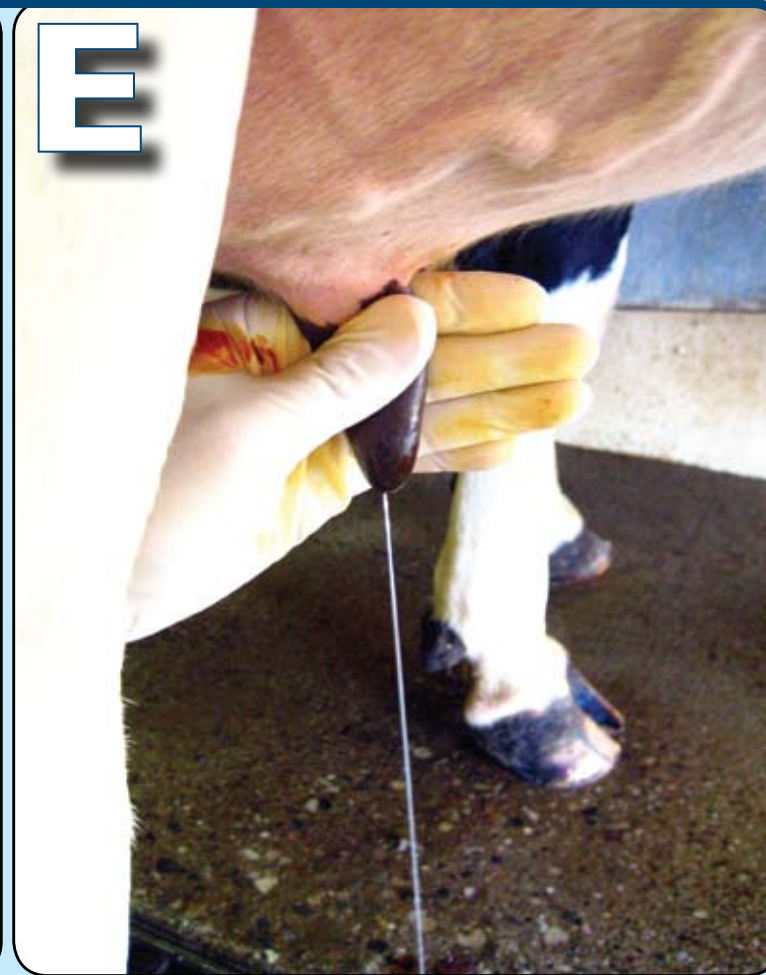
**B** **Apply the predip.** Cover the entire teat with dip. Avoid getting dip on the udder floor.



**C** **Massage the predip into each teat side with a gloved hand.** Use three twisting/pulling motions per teat to ensure teat dip coverage and udder stimulation.



**D** **Massage the teat dip into each teat end with a gloved hand.** Rub the thumb firmly across each teat end three times with the teat held between the forefinger and middle finger.



**E** **Prestrip 3 squirts per teat with a gloved hand.** Observe the milk for any abnormalities such as garget.

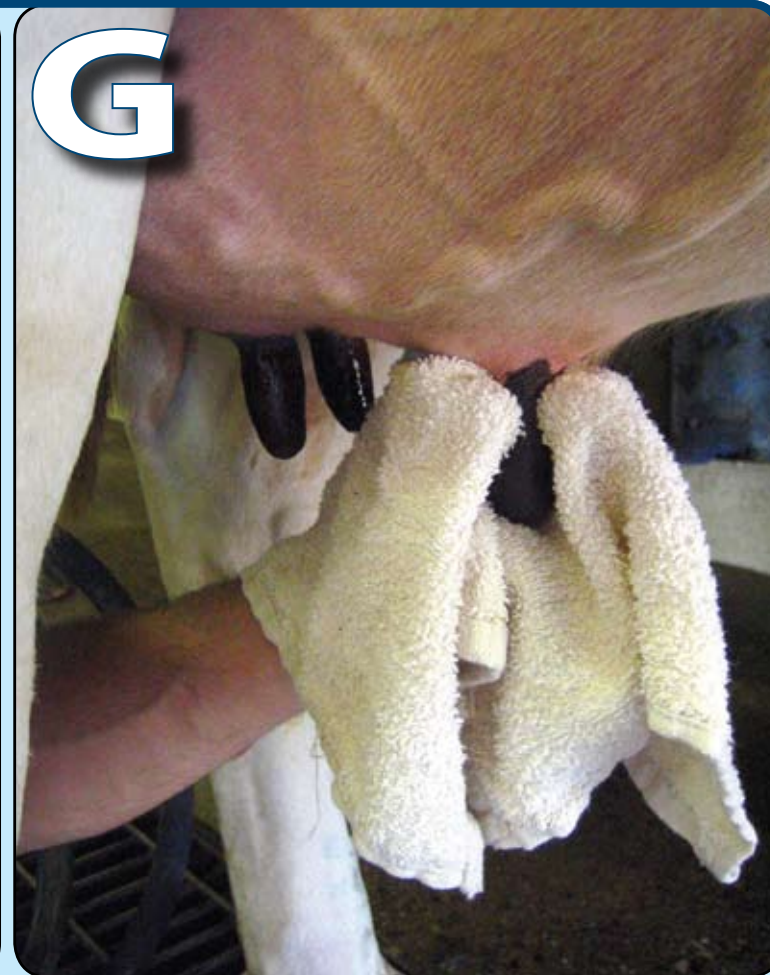
**Steps C, D, & E performed together, should take 10 to 20 seconds/cow (minimum time/cow).**

**Complete steps A through E on 2,3,or 4 cows; then return to the first cow for step F. Start step F 50 to 60 seconds after starting step C.**

SECOND VISIT



**F** **Wipe the teat dip off the teat sides.** Use a twisting/pulling motion to clean and dry the teat sides. Do NOT use the same towel on more than one cow.



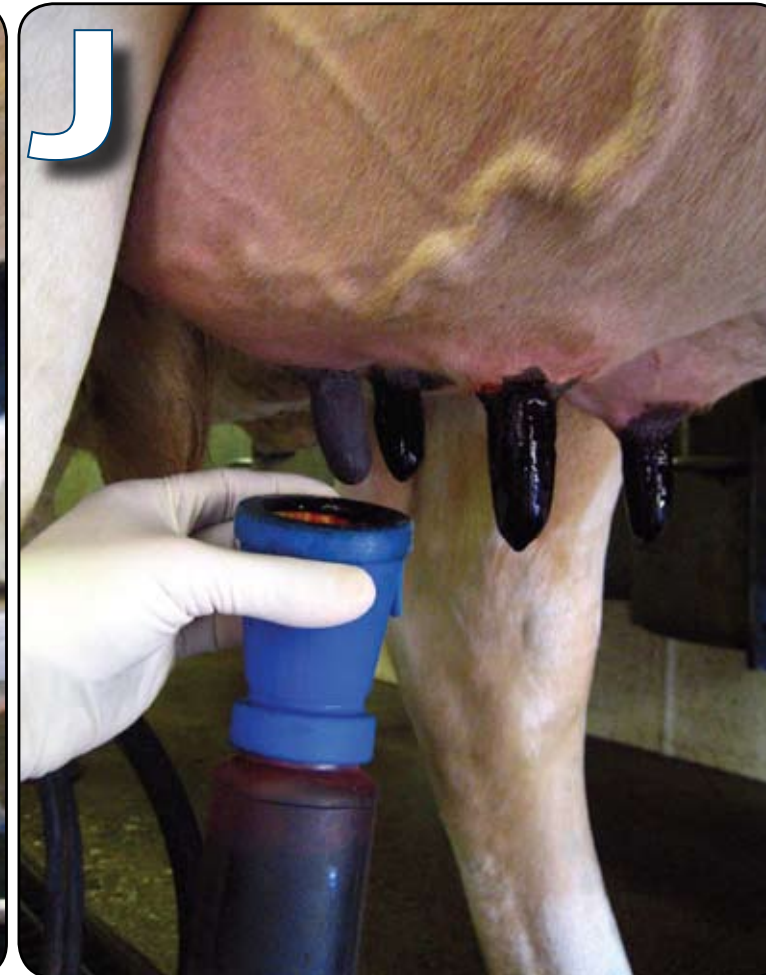
**G** **Wipe the teat dip from the teat end.** With the towel over the thumb, firmly rub across the teat end to clean and dry while holding the teat securely between the forefinger and middle finger.



**H** **Gently attach the milk unit to clean, dry teats with minimal air admission.** The milk unit should be attached **60 to 90 seconds** after the start of Step C.



**I** **Adjust the unit alignment.** Make sure the unit hangs squarely on the cow with equal unit weight distribution across all four quarters.



**J** **Apply postdip.** Cover the entire teat. Post dip should be applied with a separate applicator from the predip.

**Steps F & G performed together, should take 10 seconds/cow.**

## Two critical elements found in every successful milking routine:

- 1) Adequate stimulation time of 10-20 seconds/cow. This physical manipulation of the teats is necessary for the full release of oxytocin.
- 2) Adequate prep lag time: The milking unit is attached 60-90 seconds after the start of stimulation. This time (prep lag time) is a must to fully utilize the oxytocin released by stimulation for fast, clean milkout.

This procedure is endorsed by the Dairy Practices Council (DPC) because it is deemed to improve milk quality. Cows that have a clean environment and are properly sanitized and stimulated have a lower incidence of mastitis. Any milking procedure should be provided to milking personnel in written form. The procedure should also be explained verbally before providing hands-on training in the milking facility. The farm/shift supervisor should periodically evaluate the milking procedure. Positive reinforcement should be given for tasks performed correctly and retraining should be offered for those tasks not performed satisfactorily.

