

What's In an Udder?

If you earn a living by milking cows, then that udder had better be full of milk, right? Well on a hot day in late July, dairy producers and employees gathered to learn a little more about what a cow's udder looks like on the inside and how their actions in the milking parlor can affect udder health and milk quality. Thirty two people attended the two udder dissections held in Oakfield and Perry, NY, hosted by the NWNY Team and Vi-Cor.



Marko Sosa, Milk to the Max Specialist with Vi-Cor, began with a presentation about udder physiology and mastitis. Participants were encouraged to in-

teract, and the informal conversation did not require a vet degree to follow. After participants gained a general knowledge of how the udder produces milk and the effects of mastitis, we got to the meat of the event: dissecting an udder to see what the different structures we talked about look like in real life.

Participants returned home armed with knowledge to help make their cows healthier and happier. They learned what somatic cell count is, how it is calculated and that milk buyers pay premiums for low SCC milk because it contains more milk and fewer somatic cells per cwt. It also produces more shelf-stable products. They were warned about the damage that can be caused to teats by excessive usage of the manual setting during milking and how this damage makes cows more susceptible to mastitis. Also a key take-home message was that mastitis can cause irreversible damage to udder tissue, which can limit a cow's future ability to produce milk.

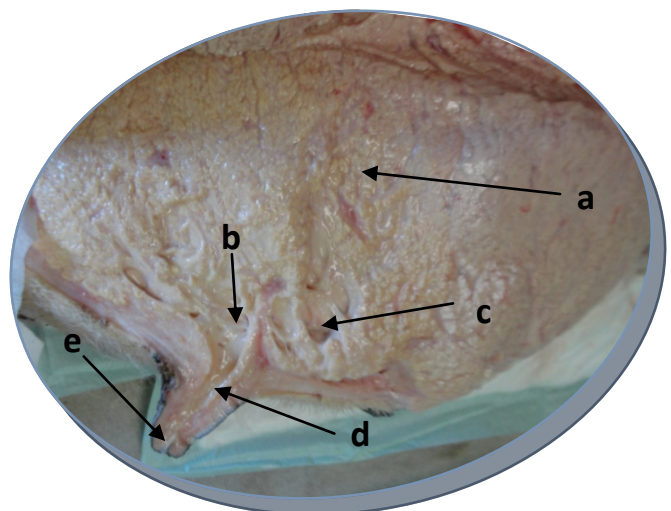
Below you can find a quiz to test your udder knowledge! Please turn to page () for answers.

Udder Trivia

1. How many gallons of milk must travel through the udder in order to produce one gallon of milk?
2. What is mastitis?
3. How many ways can a cow contract mastitis?
4. Which cows in a herd always have mastitis?
5. How is Somatic Cell Count measured?

Name the Parts of the Udder

6. Teat Sphincter _____
7. Secretory Tissue _____
8. Teat Cistern _____
9. Milk Ducts _____
10. Gland Cistern _____



Answer Key:

- 1. 400**
- 2. An inflammation of the mammary tissue**
- 3. There are 4 ways— through each teat!**
- 4. Fresh cows**
- 5. Number of somatic cells in 1mL of milk**
- 6. e**
- 7. a**
- 8. d**
- 9. c**
- 10. b**