

THE DAIRY CULTURE COACH

Helping You Manage Your Multicultural Team for Success



The Importance of Timing in a Milking Routine *La Importancia del Ritmo de una Rutina de Ordeña*

While every part of the milking routine is very important, the timing of all the steps is arguably one of the most critical pieces. Since every milking parlor is different (size, style, etc.) the milking routine on every farm is a little different. The most common steps are dipping, stripping, wiping, and attaching. When a farm plans their milking routine, they take into account which steps they are going to

include, in which order they will be carried out, how many people are working in the parlor, and how many cows it holds.

It's important that every person milking cows follows the same routine for many reasons. For one, cows like consistency, so if they are milked the same way every time, they tend to be more relaxed and comfortable in the parlor. In addition, the routine for each farm is designed to allow the correct amount of let down time. The time between first touching the cows' teats (stimulation) to the time you attach the milking machine should always be between 90 and 120 seconds. Why? Because that is the amount of time the cow needs to let down her milk.

When we strip or wipe the cow's teats, a message is sent to the cow's brain through the nervous system, letting her know it is time to be milked. This leads to the release of a



When a calf nurses, she butts her head against the cow's udder, stimulating milk let down. In the parlor, we have to provide the stimulation. *Cuando mama una becerro, cabecea a la ubre de la vaca para estimular la bajada de leche. En una parla, nosotros mismos tenemos que proveer la estimulación.*

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Milking Vocabulary

to milk — ordeñar
milk — leche
to wipe — limpiar
to strip — exprimir
to dip — mojar
to spray — esprayar
to wait — esperar
timing — el ritmo
mastitis — la mastitis
somatic cell count - el conteo de células somáticas

hormone called oxytocin from the pituitary gland. Oxytocin travels through the blood vessels to arrive in the udder. Once there, oxytocin causes the contraction of muscles surrounding the alveoli (milk-producing cells) which in turn causes flow of milk through the milk ducts and finally to the udder.

How long does this process take? Ninety to 120 seconds! That is why it is so important to allow 90 to 120 seconds between wiping or striping and attaching the milking machine. If you connect it too early, the vacuum from the milking machine without milk flow can cause damage to the teat ends. Damaged teat ends are rough and difficult to clean, which makes these cows more likely to get mastitis.

A few common mistakes include having an extra person jump in to connect machines without waiting the correct amount of time, attaching a slow-milking cow early, or attaching cows “backwards” in the parlor (connecting the last cow that was prepped instead of the first). All of these “short cuts” actually cause slower milk flow and thus a longer milking time, all because they do not allow for the correct amount of milk let-down time. So remember—cows love consistency! Help them out by always following your farm’s milking routine correctly!

Aunque cada parte de la rutina de ordeña es importante, el ritmo de todos los pasos es uno de los pasos más importantes. Como cada sala de ordeña es diferente (tamaño, estilo, etc.) la rutina de ordeña es un poco diferente en cada rancho. Los pasos más comunes son mojar, exprimir, limpiar y conectar. Cuando un rancho está planificando su rutina de ordeña, toman en cuenta cuales pasos van a usar, el orden en que los van a realizar, cuántas personas están trabajando en la parla, y cuantas vacas caben en la parla.

Es importante que cada persona que ordeña siga la misma rutina para muchas razones. Primero, a las vacas les gusta la consistencia, así que si las ordeñan de la misma manera cada vez, ellas suelen estar más tranquilas y cómodas en la

parla. También la rutina en cada rancho está diseñado para que las vacas tengan el tiempo correcto para bajar su leche. El tiempo entre tocar los pezones de la vaca para la primera vez (estimulación) y conectar la máquina de ordeña siempre debe ser entre 90 y 120 segundos. ¿Por qué? Porque eso es el tiempo requerido para que la vaca baje su leche.

Cuando exprimimos o limpiamos los pezones de la vaca, un mensaje viaja por el sistema nervioso de la vaca para llegar a su cerebro, avisándola que es hora de ordeñar. Eso resulta en la liberación de la glándula pituitaria de una hormona que se llama oxitocina. Oxitocina viaja por las venas de sangre de la vaca para llegar en la ubre. Estando allí, la oxitocina causa



The timing of connecting is very important.

El tiempo de conectar es muy importante.

la contracción de los músculos alrededor de los alveolos (las células que producen leche), lo que causa que la leche fluya por los ductos de leche y llega finalmente en la ubre.

¿Cuánto delata este proceso? ¡90 a 120 segundos! Por eso es tan importante dejar 90 a 120 segundos entre limpiar o exprimir y conectar la máquina de ordeña. Al conectar demasiado temprano, el vacío de la máquina de ordeña sin un flujo de leche puede dañar a los puntos de los

pezones. Los puntos de las tetas dañados son rugosos y difíciles de limpiar, y puede causar que estas vacas se enfermen más con mastitis.

Unos equivocaciones comunes incluyen dejar que una persona extra ayuda a conectar máquinas sin esperar el tiempo requerido, conectar temprano a una vaca que ordeña despacio, o conectar las vacas “de revés” en la parla (conectar primero a la última vaca que limpiaron en vez de la primera). En vez de ahorrar tiempo, estas acciones resultan en un flujo de leche más despacio y un tiempo de ordeña más larga, siempre porque no proveen el tiempo correcto para la bajada de leche. ¡Hay que recordar que a las vacas les encantan la consistencia! ¡Siempre seguir la rutina de ordeña en su rancho las puede ayudar bastante!

BECKER FORUM –

FARM EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES: PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2018, HOLIDAY INN CONVENTION CENTER, LIVERPOOL

8:30 AM Registration and Refreshments

9:00 AM Welcome and Introduction , Industry Involvement in State Level Labor Issues

Rick Zimmerman, New York State Vegetable Growers

9:20 AM Review of Key Labor Regulations and Regulatory Changes

Belén Ledezma, New York State Monitor Advocate, NYDOL

10:00 AM Break

10:15 AM How Will USDA be Involved in Agricultural Labor Policy?

Kristi Boswell, Special Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture

10:55 AM Federal Labor Regulations New Programs, Overview of Forms, New Laws, etc., Regulations and Posting Requirements

Ann Margaret Pointer, Attorney with Fisher Phillips

11:45 AM Lunch

12:45 PM Guidelines for Making Housing Work and How to Improve Farm Worker Housing with H-2A in Mind

1:25 PM How Other Regions of the United States are Using H-2A

Kameron and Mark Martens, Agri-Placements, Oklahoma

2:05 PM Review of the H-2A Process

Kristi Boswell, Special Assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture &

Belén Ledezma, New York State Monitor Advocate, NYDOL

2:45 PM Break

3:00 PM Producer Panel: Current Status of H-2A and a Few Basics

Moderator: Paul Baker, Cornell Panelists: Kathleen Walker, Lakeview Orchards, Burt, NY, Allison DeMarree, DeMarree Fruit Farms, Williamson, NY, Dan Henry, W.D. Henry & Sons Inc., Eden, NY

3:50 PM Speaker Roundtable – Questions and Answers with All of the Speakers

4:30 PM Adjourn

For more information & registration details, visit <https://nysvga.org/expo/information/>

I-9 Webinar Available

Filling out the Form I-9 upon hiring a new employee can be a bit confusing. Even though it's only two pages long, there are many details to remember. Correct completion of the form is necessary in order to follow strict government regulations. On December 15th Farm Credit East hosted a webinar that walks you through I-9 form completion. The webinar also discusses recordkeeping, making corrections, performing self audits, and how to handle a real audit from USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.) The webinar recording and handout are available for viewing here:

<https://www.farmcrediteast.com/knowledge-exchange/Webinars/the-new-ice-age>

Nacimientos

Do you set up a nativity scene in your home during the Christmas season? This tradition is celebrated among Catholic families in Mexico and Guatemala as well, but the nativity is called the “nacimiento,” which also means birth. Instead of setting up the whole nativity at once, families wait to add the baby Jesus until midnight on Christmas Eve, and the wise men on January 6th, which is Three Kings Day. In Guatemala, it's also customary to place the nativity scene underneath the Christmas tree.



A Guatemalan nacimiento.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

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Check out our website!

<https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu>



Stay tuned for the next issue of *The Dairy Culture Coach* in March! To sign up, email Libby.

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Through educational programs and other teaching opportunities, the NWNY Team seeks to build producers' capacities to:

- Enhance the sustainability of their businesses
- Enhance profitability and other aspects of economic performance of their businesses
- Practice environmental stewardship
- Enhance employee well-being and satisfaction
- Provide safe, healthy agricultural products in ways that are safe to farm owners and employees and their families and neighbors
- Provide leadership for enhancing relationships between the agricultural sector and the general public

We look forward to working with you in your farming and ag-related ventures in NWNY. Together we can keep the agricultural economy competitive, maintain a comfortable standard of living and be conscientious stewards of our natural environment.