

NOVEMBER 2012

POSTMILKING TEAT DISINFECTION DURING WINTER IMPLIES MORE THAN JUST KILLING THE MASTITIS BUGS

Postmilking teat disinfection is one of the most effective procedures for preventing new intramammary infections in cows, specifically those caused by contagious mastitis pathogens such as *Staph. aureus*. During winter time cows' teats endure much. Particularly at low temperatures and when exposed to cold winds or frozen bedding areas, teats can become chapped. In severe cases this can result in permanent lesions and sometimes teats even become frozen. The cracks, no matter how small they are, allow for the harboring of more mastitis causing bacteria and make teats more difficult to disinfect, increasing the risk of mastitis. On top of that, lesions will cause pain during milking, impeding the milking process.



Photo: **M-team** ^{UGent}

Recommendations:

- Immerse teats using a dip cup containing the teat disinfectant or spray the teats immediately following teat cup removal and assure complete coverage of the teats;
- Store the teat dip product appropriately in order to minimize contamination;
- Use a postmilking teat germicide containing emollients to soften and protect the teat skin during winter;
- Continue to teat dip or spray throughout the year.

As virtually 100% of the intramammary infections occur by bacteria gaining access to the mammary tissue via the teat canal, the teat end and teat skin should be kept in perfect condition - this will keep the risk of mastitis low.

M-team, altijd paraat als het om uw melk gaat!

