



CLEAN MILK PRODUCTION PRACTICES ON FARM

- ✓ Good hygiene is important to help keep milk free from bacterial contamination.
- ✓ It is important to make sure the animal you are milking is healthy because an infection can be passed from a cow to her milk.
- ✓ Some infections (e.g. TB, or Brucellosis) can make milk unsafe for humans to drink.

ESSENTIAL STEPS FOR CLEAN MILK PRODUCTION

1. MILKER HYGIENE

- ✓ Wash hands with soap before and after milking to avoid contamination.
- ✓ Wear clean clothes.
- ✓ Avoid contact between milk and body parts, clothes or belongings.
- ✓ Do not smoke during milking.
- ✓ Avoid sneezing/ coughing towards udder/ bucket during milking.
- ✓ Milker should be free from any respiratory condition or contagious disease, e.g. TB, diarrhoea.
- ✓ Do not milk with open sores or cuts on exposed body parts.

2. PRE-MILKING

- ✓ The milking shed floor should be firm, clean and dry.
- ✓ Ensure buckets have been cleaned with water and chlorine before milking.
- ✓ Clean the udder and teats using clean (potable) water. **DO NOT** use perfumed soap.
- ✓ Dry the teats using a clean dry cloth (or tissue). Use a separate cloth (or tissue) for each animal.
- ✓ Put the first two squirts of milk from all 4 teats into a container and throw away.
- ✓ Check the third and fourth squirt for abnormal milk and discolouration. If milk appears abnormal, check for mastitis using the Sunlight reagent (Rapid Mastitis Test) – *see separate fact sheet*.
- ✓ Use separate buckets, **one** for milking and **one** for washing udders and teats.
- ✓ Clean teats before milk collection if calves have recently suckled.
- ✓ Use an approved teat lubricant. e.g. milking salve. Do not use milk from the bucket as a lubricant.

3. DURING MILKING

- ✓ Protect the milking bucket from contamination by flies, hay, dung or other matter. E.g. by placing on flat ground and milking in a clean, covered space.
- ✓ Gently squeeze the teat. **DO NOT** pull the teat.



ON FARM MILK PRACTICES

- ✓ Milk healthy quarters first.
- ✓ Isolate infected quarters. Milk from infected quarters should not be sent to the Milk Collection Centre (MCC).
- ✓ Cows treated with antibiotics must be milked last, and all her milk discarded for the stated drug withdrawal period. *See separate fact sheet.*

4. AFTER MILKING

- ✓ Use Teat Dip with an approved solution after milking to avoid infection.
- ✓ Do not treat cows that test positive using a CMT or RMT¹ test with antibiotics without consulting a vet to confirm antibiotics are required.
 - Only treat infected cows (i.e. clots or discoloured milk are seen before using the RMT reagent) after milking is completed.
 - Sterilise infected teats with methylated spirits (or recommended solution) before inserting antibiotics into the teat canal.
- ✓ Limit the use of cups or measuring jugs when transferring milk into the milk can to avoid contamination.
- ✓ Filter milk before pouring into a milk can.
- ✓ Clean all milk collection utensils (e.g. sieves) using detergent and hot water. Rinse with clean water and place upside down on a drying rack.
- ✓ Clean buckets with water and chlorine in preparation for the next milking.
- ✓ Clean the milking parlour and allow to dry.

5. Delivery of milk to MCC

- ✓ Use stainless steel cans with a secure lid to transport milk. (If plastic is used to help seal the lid this must be also kept clean like the cans).
- ✓ Do not bring milk to the MCC from diseased cattle or those that may still be subject to drug withdrawal periods (*see separate fact sheet*).
- ✓ Milk should arrive at the MCC within two hours of milking to avoid the multiplication of harmful bacteria.

REMEMBER: Provide sufficient good quality feed and drinking water for cattle at all times including evenings.

DO NOT mix un-chilled night milk with morning milk.
DO NOT take un-chilled night milk to the MCC the next day.

ZDTP is focused on supporting dairy farmers to improve their productivity, milk quality and linkages to urban markets. The views expressed in this publication are those of the implementers of the programme and do not necessarily reflect those of the New Zealand Government. For further information, please contact ZDTP on zdtpinfo@primeconsultants.net. Follow us on www.zambiadairy.com, Facebook (facebook.com/zambiadairy/) and Twitter ([@DairyZambia](https://twitter.com/DairyZambia)).

¹ CMT – California Mastitis Test; RMT – Rapid Mastitis Test