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TIPPERARY COOPERATIVE

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DAIRY DETERGENTS

Milking Plant Hygiene & Somatic Cell Count Control
Technical Update – Spring 2024

To prepare for the 2024 Spring Milking season a few key points / actions needs to be taken to ensure premium quality milk is supplied to your processor.

Key Points / Actions

- Ensure the Milking Plant & Bulk Tank are serviced, ensuring rubber ware and chemical dosing tubes are changed and units calibrated.
- Choose Moorepark tested and approved Detergents & Teat Care Products.
- Follow a wash routine on your Milking Plant & Bulk tank, using the wash program card available through your Co-op Source outlet.

TBC/Thermoduric Control

To maintain low TBC & Thermoduric counts a few key actions need to be taken.

1. Use approved Moorepark detergents.
2. Ensure your mailing plant is adequately rinsed pre milking at the rate of 14lt / unit preferably with water at 30 – 35 Deg C if supplies are available, as this will improve milk residue removal & reduce the risk of protein deposit buildup in the plant.
3. Calibrate automatic dosing system for the Detergents / Descaler/ Sanitizer being used. Typically, a milking plant takes 9lt of water per unit to adequately clean and for a hot wash dose rate of 0.5 % v/v a dose rate of 45ml of Detergent per unit is required.
4. When completing a hot wash, it is critical that the wash temperature does not drop below 50 Deg C during the wash cycle, as this will result in milk proteins that have been removed to stick to parts of the plant when they cool, resulting in a deposit building on your plant which will increase TBC / Thermoduric counts.
5. An Acid wash on the plant should be carried out 2 to 3 times per week depending on the hardness / lime in the water used. Acid based detergents are very effective at removing milk stone and water scales that will harbour bacteria if not removed, increasing TBC & Thermoduric counts.
6. 14lt of water per unit is required to adequately rinse a typical milking plant.
7. Peracetic Acid based sanitiser should be used in the final rinse, as this will further reduce the risk of high TBC /Thermoduric count. Peracetic Acid has non rinse approval for food contact equipment and should only be dosed to the volume of water to adequately wet the plant and be left in contact between milkings.

Chlorate Level Reduction in milk

Chlorates are mainly derived from Chlorine based products that break down into high levels of Chlorate over time. Public drinking water supplies are treated with low levels of Chlorine for disinfection & if Chlorate levels are being detected in milk, drainage of the Bulk Tank & Milking Plant post washing should be reviewed.

High chlorate levels in milk supplies are no longer acceptable to Processors, as very low levels have now been set by customers for milk powders & butter.

Key points to reduce Chlorate levels.

- A. Only use Chlorine free Moorepark Approved detergents.
- B. Avoid Teat Dips based on Chlorine Dioxide.
- C. Rinse Milking plant & Bulk Tank with adequate volumes of rinse water, as some Chlorine free detergents on the market can still contain low levels of Chlorates.
- D. Check that no water remains in the Bulk Tank or Milking Plant post washing when using a public chlorine treated water supply, as residual water can spike Chlorate levels.

Somatic Cell Count Control in early Lactation

The control of SCC in the herd is critical in the first 6 weeks of lactation & it is accepted in the industry that if SCC counts are kept low in this period, the levels will remain low for the rest of the lactation.

Key Hygiene Control points to maintain low SCC levels

- Ensure cubicles & passageways are kept as clean as possible.
- Use Lime based products for cubicle disinfection.
- Use a good quality Teat Dip, Pre & Post milking ensuring to adequately cover the Teat area.
- Disinfect clusters between cows as mastitis causing bacteria can transfer to the next 7 cows milked when moved from a cow with a high SCC count.
- Use CMT test or Milk recording to identify cows with high SCC counts and manage accordingly.