

Meyer picks up Christmas giveaway calf in South Dakota



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Adam Meyer, 5, picks up his prize-winning heifer calf from dairy farmers Cal (left) and Jay Graber Dec. 21, 2019 at the brothers' farm near Parker, South Dakota. Meyer was the youth winner of Dairy Star's Great Christmas Giveaway. His parents, Troy and Erin, dairy farm near Maynard, Iowa.

Efficient, productive milking parlors

On dairy farms, we talk about a lot of things, like "efficiency" and "productivity" and "profitability" and that magical spot where all of those things come together. I think a really



By Emily Wilmes
University of MN

good example of this in the milking parlor. A parlor that runs efficiently will have a high throughput and will maximize labor usage. Building on that, efficient labor will also lead to a calm environment for cows,

which in turn stimulates milk flow and even production. Add to that the milk quality benefits of a well-run parlor, and profitability ties in to the whole system. Is your parlor running at its most efficient? Is what's being done in there helping your cows stay healthy and productive? Let's review some ways to keep your parlor in tip-top shape.

Think about the environment of the parlor itself. Is your parlor a place cows want to go? Is it clean? Is it calm and inviting? Things to consider in your parlor include cleanliness, noise levels, and light. A clean parlor will help manage environmental pathogens and help keep cows and milkers healthy. A quiet, calm parlor will help stimulate milk letdown and reduce potential teat damage of milking machines pumping when little milk is coming out. Loud music or milkers yelling may cause adrenaline release in the cows, which prohibits milk letdown. Lighting in a parlor is often overlooked, but shouldn't be underestimated. A well-lit parlor benefits the

cows, as they like to clearly see where they are going and what's going on. It also benefits employees, as they are able to see the udder well and ensure its cleanliness. Good lighting can also aid in the visual examination of milk when stripping the udder during prep.

Next, think about the management of the parlor. How are cows brought in? How are they prepped for milking? How long does it all take? The flow of your parlor matters, from the moment that pump turns on to the moment it turns off. Cows should be brought in efficiently, while still allowing them to move at a comfortable pace. Consider grouping cows by milking speed, or, at the very least, keep your slowest milkers until the end. While prepping cows, are all of the milkers (if there are multiple) doing the same thing? Is the prep pattern always the same? Is it a timely? A quick review of important milking preparation times:

- The teat skin surface requires 10-20 seconds of stimulation for optimum milk letdown

- Teat dip should be on the teats for 30 seconds to effectively kill bacteria on the teat surface

- Prep-lag time, or the time it takes from initial stimulation to attachment of the milking machine should be 60-120 seconds

Preparation of cows in a timely manner that allows for proper stimulation and contact time is crucial to a well-run parlor. It also has a direct impact on parlor throughput, which is especially important in herds that run the parlor nearly 24 hours a day.

The environment and management of your parlor play critical roles in ensuring it is efficient, productive, and in the end, profitable.

Powerful PTO Pumps To Handle Liquid Manure

GEA engineering for a better world

FIELD'S
Your Material Handling Source
Trusted sales and service since 1966
Mt. Horeb, WI

Tanks Spread All Types Of Liquid Manure



FutureCow® Prep System

The FutureCow® Prep System from GEA accomplishes multiple pre-milking procedures in one easy step. The system features a mechanical brush unit that gently washes, disinfects, stimulates and dries all in one visit to the cow.

FutureCow® Prep System benefits cows, employees and the dairy's bottom line.

Benefits for your cows:

- Improves teat-end health
- Results in cleaner, healthier teats less prone to mastitis
- Maximizes udder stimulation; improves milk flow rates

Benefits to the dairy's bottom line:

- Direct drive brush unit requires less maintenance
- Decreases milking times; increases the number of cows milked per hour
- Does away with the cost for towels, towel service, and laundry while also eliminating the need for maintaining laundry equipment
- Improves milk quality, often times reducing somatic cell counts
- Patented process with specialized chlorine dioxide solution thoroughly cleans each teat, reducing iodine usage
- Backed by GEA dealerships offering industry-leading equipment expertise and customer service to support your purchase

Jon Stein 320-352-5762 • 1-800-342-2697
Henning Area 218-849-0211

CENTRE DAIRY EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLY INC.

40625 State Hwy. 28 • Just West of Hwy. 71 • Sauk Centre, MN